

Brachythecium campestre

COMMON NAMES

moss

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2025 | Introduced and Naturalised

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Non-vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Medium, soft, yellowish-green, moss forming loose mats. **Stems** prostrate subpinnately or irregularly branched, yellowish, c. 75 mm, in cross-section, brown below, with smooth rhizoids (in bunches on lower side of leaf bases). **Branches** variable in length. **Stem leaves** erect-spreading, symmetric, keeled, ovate-lanceolate to lanceolate from a weakly auriculate base, evenly tapered to a narrowly acuminate apex, irregularly recurved or not at margins, concave, slightly decurrent or not, serrulate in lower two-thirds (often more strongly near base), entire or nearly so near apex, 2.6–3.3 × 1.0 mm. **Branch leaves** somewhat smaller, 2.0–3.0 × 0.5–0.8 mm, strongly serrulate above. **Nerve** c. 30 µm wide, $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of the leaf (often obscured by leaf plications), with or without a terminal abaxial spine. **Upper laminal cells** smooth, firm-walled, linear, 90–120 × 5–7 µm, **basal cells** shorter in c. 3–5 rows, alar cells quadrate to irregularly oblong, forming a rather large but indistinct alar group (smaller in branch leaves). Autoicous. **Perichaetial leaves** acuminate from an oblong base, erect. **Perigonia** scattered on stems, c. 1 mm long, bracts broadly ovate bracts, paraphyses filiform. **Setae** 13–28 mm, papillose throughout, c. 240–310 µm diameter, weakly twisted to the left below and to the right above, orange to red-brown. **Capsules** horizontal, asymmetric, 2.5–3.0 mm long, oblong-ovoid, yellowish-brown. **Operculum** conic, very shortly apiculate. **Spores** 14–18 µm, nearly smooth.

SIMILAR TAXA

Brachythecium campestre could be confused with *Palamocladium leskeoides*. However *P. leskeoides* is a basicole, virtually confined to limestone and marble. It has a more strongly toothed lower leaf margin and cordate leaf base and is often a subtle pinkish-golden hue unlike the yellowish-green of the present species.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Canterbury (Craigieburn and Rolleston Ranges), Otago (Flagstaff Hill)).

HABITAT

Montane to alpine. On earth, rock, or rotten wood; one collection came from a seepage area.

THREATS

Known from three sites where it is locally common. Probably more widespread as its habitat is primarily alpine. Further surveys are needed to ascertain its exact status.

GENUS

Brachythecium

FAMILY

Brachytheciaceae

AUTHORITY

Brachythecium campestre (Müll.Hal.) Schimp.

SYNONYMS

Brachythecium allisonii Fife, *Brachythecium subpilosum* var. *angustifolium* Allison, *Hypnum rutabulum* var. *campestre* Müll.Hal.



ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FRUITING

Present throughout the year.

ETYMOLOGY

campestre: From the Latin campus ‘field, pasture’, meaning growing in pasture

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2014 | Data Deficient

2010 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: OL

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/brachythecium-campestre/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026