

# Bryum tenuidens

## COMMON NAMES

Moss

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2025 | Data Deficient

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## CATEGORY

Non-vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Synoicous, minute, densely tufted and matted terricolous moss. Plants yellowish-green above, light brown below. Mats held together at base by radicles. Stems 5.0-7.5 mm tall, simple or sparingly branched. Leaves about 2 mm long, either in dense comose tufts or rather regularly paced on the stem, erect and appressed both dry and moist, vinous red at the wide base, oblong, acuminate; margins plane, entire or faintly and bluntly notched towards the apex. Nerve strong, about 60 microns wide at the base, excurrent in a rather long, rigid, slightly denticulate point. Upper cells laxly rhomboid-hexagonal, 50-80 microns long and 3-5 x 1; cells towards the base becoming shortly rectangular; those at the margin in 2-3 rows narrowly linear, forming a rather distinct border. Seta 10-18 mm long, flexuose, reddish, arcuate at the apex. Capsule 2.0-2.5 mm long, pendulous, symmetrical, clavate or sometimes pyriform, narrowed at the mouth, light-brown with a darker tapered neck; annulus well developed. Exothecial cells large, subsodiametrical, with sinuose walls. Peristome teeth thin and short (300 microns long), distant, narrowly lanceolate-subulate, pale yellow below, margined, finely papillose on the dorsal face and with a zigzag median line; ventral lamellae weakly developed and only slightly projecting; inner peristome pale; basal membrane low, variably adherent; processes almost equaling the teeth, hyaline, widely gaping on the median line. Cilia one to each process, very short and rudimentary, neither nodose or appendiculate. Operculum conical, mamillate. Male plants separate, shorter, bearing terminal flowers.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Kahurangi National Park, Arthur Range)

## SUBSTRATE DETAILS

Soil. In damp ground, exposed or sheltered.

## THREATS

*Bryum tenuidens* is known only from a single gathering made from Mt Arthur in 1930 (Glenny et al. 2011). It has not been seen there since although it is difficult to see what threatens, nor why it should be so uncommon. Possibly it is vulnerable to trampling by humans as where it was found is now a popular walking track.

## GENUS

*Bryum*

## FAMILY

Bryaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Bryum tenuidens* Dixon & Sainsbury

## SYNONYMS

None

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes



## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FRUITING

Although fruit has been seen insufficient information exists to provide any details on the timing of fruiting

## ETYMOLOGY

**bryum**: From the Greek word bryon meaning 'lichen' or 'moss'.

## NVS CODE

BRYTEN

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: OL

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Glenny, D.; Fife, A.J.; Brownsey, P.J.; Renner, M.A.M.; Braggins, J.E.; Beever, J.E.; Hitchmough, R. 2011: Threatened and uncommon bryophytes of New Zealand (2010 Revision). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 49: 305-327.

Sainsbury, G.O.K. 1955: A handbook of the New Zealand mosses. *Royal Society of New Zealand Bulletin* 5.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (1 October 2007). Description adapted from Sainsbury (1955).

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Bryum tenuidens* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/bryum-tenuidens/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/bryum-tenuidens/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026