

Ceratodon purpureus

COMMON NAMES

Moss

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2025 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

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CATEGORY

Non-vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Colonial, terricolous, dark green moss. Stems c.10 mm tall (or less), simple or branched. Leaves 1.00-1.25 mm long, when dry appressed and weakly twisted, with curved apices, suberect to spreading when moist; lamina base long, broadly oblong or ovate (up to 0.4 mm wide), narrowly ligulate, with an obtuse apex; margins entire, recurved throughout, except towards the apex. Nerve very strong, about 100 microns wide at the base, failing below the apex. Cells above 8-10 microns, subquadrate, incrassate, smooth and pellucid; those at the base rectangular, about 20 microns long, with rather firm walls. Perichaetium sheathing, with the inner bracts much longer than the leaves. Seta 10.0-12.5 mm long, slender, red, slightly flexuose. Capsule 10-15 mm long, oblong or cylindrical, brown. Peristome dark-brown with 16 teeth; divided completely into two filiform, scarcely auriculate, minutely papillose crurae, ad united at the base into a well-developed, closely and strongly auriculate, basal membrane.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, Pureora, Wairarapa

SUBSTRATE DETAILS

Terrestrial on damp soil within indigenous forest

THREATS

Known from very few collections. Highly threatened by habitat loss, weeds and human traffic (trampling). Vulnerable to plant collectors.

GENUS

Ceratodon

FAMILY

Ditrichaceae

AUTHORITY

Ceratodon purpureus (Hedw.) Brid.

SYNONYMS

Didymodon calycinus Dixon (placed in Pottiaceae)

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FRUITING

Spring to Summer (exact fruiting period unknown)



PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2014

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: De, DP

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (1 June 2007). Description adapted from Sainsbury (1955)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ceratodon-purpureus/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026