

Crosbya nervosa

COMMON NAMES

moss

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2025 | At Risk – Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, RR

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Non-vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dioicous. Plants densely tufted or forming mats, foliage and stems glossy, yellow-green to golden-green above, darker below. Stems up to 27 mm tall, erect or ascending, simple to sparsely branched, dark red, naked or with a few rhizoids at the leaf bases, in cross-section of uniform, large cells, brood bodies occasionally present. Leaves loosely flexuose-erect when dry, erect-spreading when moist, 1.0-2.3 mm long, ovate-lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate, quickly narrowed to cuspidate, acuminate, asymmetric apex, strongly keeled, bordered by thick-walled, linear cells in about 2-4 rows at mid-leaf, sharply set off from laminal cells at base of leaf; nerve single, excurrent into the apex and confluent with the border; margins entire, reflexed to recurved; upper leaf cells 8-15 x 7 µm, smooth, shortly rhomboidal to oval-rhomboidal, with moderately thick walls; basal cells irregularly short-rectangular to irregularly hexagonal, hyaline, noticeably larger than upper cells 12-25 x 27-50 µm, cells at insertion similar in shape, often coloured; brood bodies occasionally produced at base of outer side of leaves, fusiform, of three to six uniseriate cells. Perichaetia lateral, leaves 1.1-1.2 mm long, ovate-lanceolate to oblong-ovate, shortly acuminate, concave, border present but indistinct, nerve absent or indistinct, if present becoming faint above; upper cells 30-65 x 9-12 µm. Setae 4-6 mm long, erect to curved. Reddish, thickest at base; smooth below, somewhat roughened above, capsules 0.5-1.0 mm long, oblong-obovate when mature, ovate and somewhat constricted beneath mouth when old, gradually contracted to the seta through roughened neck about ¼ to 1/5 the length of urn; stomates numerous in a wide band around the capsule neck; Peristome double; exostome teeth 16 and endostome segments 16. Opercula conic, with a long-rostrate beak, about as long as the capsule. Spores 15-17 µm wide, spherical. Calyptrae mitriform, deeply laciniate in lower portion.

DISTRIBUTION

In New Zealand known from the North Island (Mt Moehau, Mt Pirongia, near Pureora, Taupo and in the Kaimanawa Range), several sites in the South Island and from Chatham, Campbell and the Auckland Islands.

HABITAT

Mostly corticolous or foliicolous on leaves and twigs of trees and shrubs in cloud forest, within frost flats, and on the Auckland Islands from the twigs of *Coprosma cuneata*, *Metrosideros umbellata* and on the old culms of tussocks (*Chionochloa* and *Poa*). Rarely saxicolous.

SUBSTRATE DETAILS

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THREATS

Not Threatened. However, known from very records in New Zealand and at these sites it is apparently very localised and uncommon.

GENUS

Crosbya



FAMILY

Daltoniaceae

AUTHORITY

Crosbya nervosa (Hook.f. Wilson) Vitt

SYNONYMS

Hookeria nervosa (Hook. et Wilson) Hampe ex C.Müll.; Daltonia nervosa (Hook. et Wilson) Hampe ex C.Müll.; Bellia nervosa (Hook. et Wilson) Broth.; Bellia crumii Vitt.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FRUITING

Fruits, though often rarely produced, may be present throughout the year.

ETYMOLOGY

nervosa: With conspicuous veins

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2014 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2010 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2005 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/crosbya-nervosa/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026