

# Ditrichum brachycarpum

## COMMON NAME

Moss

## SYNONYMS

*Ditrichum calcareum* (R.Br.bis) Broth.

## FAMILY

Ditrichaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Ditrichum brachycarpum* Hampe

## FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2009 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: OL, TO

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. In New Zealand known only from Canterbury (near Lake Coleridge, Castlehill and near Castlehill Village) and from the Rock & Pillar Range. New Zealand is imperfect and it is not clear if the gatherings so named are actually this species, further recent surveys at some of sites where it had been recorded have failed to locate further specimens

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Saxicolous, densely tufted moss of mostly calcareous substrates. Stems 10 mm or more tall, simple or branched. Leaves 1.5-2.0 mm long, crowded, appressed, rigid, erect or sub-erect, from a widened oblong base narrowed, in the upper leaves rather abruptly but in the lower ones gradually, to a rigid subula. Nerve wide and thick, 100-120  $\mu$ m wide at the base, deep orange-red, vanishing in the subula. Cells narrow-linear throughout. Setae 2.5-4.0 mm long. Capsule oblique, inclined, ovate-oblong, slightly narrowed to the mouth, annulate. Peristome single, long filiform, granulate, united at the base into a short tube. Operculum 1/5 length of capsule, united at the base into a short tube. Calyptra cucullate. Antheridia gemmiform, axillary.

## FRUITING

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

## THREATS

Very vulnerable to competition from weeds, trampling by rock climbers and mining/quarrying for lime and limestone rock. There is some evidence that this species may have declined markedly since rock climbing became more popular in the Castlehill basin (see also *Grimmia plagiopoda*)

## SUBSTRATE

Saxicolous on limestone and chlorite schist rocks. Montane to alpine.

**Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by:** P.J. de Lange (6 October 2010).



**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ditrichum-brachycarpum/>