

Entosthodon muhlenbergii

COMMON NAMES

moss, Muhlenberg's cord-moss

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2025 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant | Qualifiers: SO

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CATEGORY

Non-vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terricolous, yellowish or green, colonial moss forming diffuse patches on damp earth in deep shade. Stems c.5 mm tall, simple. Leaves 1.5-3.2 mm long, tufted, wrinkled or little altered when dry, somewhat erect to spreading when dry and moist; lamina obovate to widely obovate-spathulate, concave, obtuse or subacute, apiculate; margins plane slightly and bluntly serrate above by projection of the marginal cell-ends; nerve failing below apex. Cells lax, 30-140 microns long and 1.5-5.0 x 1, subquadrate, oblong, or irregularly 4-6-sided; longer and rectangular at the base; marginal cells in the upper part of the leaf in 1-2 rows narrower and often yellowish (forming a more or less distinct border). Seta 5-28 mm long. Capsule 2.5-4.0 mm long, smooth, clavate-pyriform, curved, gibbous, neck well defined (occupying fully 1/2 of capsule length), wide-mouthed, without annulus. Peristome double; the outer of 16 reddish-brown, lanceolate-subulate teeth, somewhat oblique, variably striolate on the dorsal face and trabeculate on the ventral; inner peristome of 16 opposed paler processes, shaped like teeth. Operculum scarcely convex. Calyptra inflated.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. Australia and New Zealand. In New Zealand exact distribution unclear though it has only been recorded from the eastern South Island.

SUBSTRATE DETAILS

Terricolous on damp, usually bare earth within grey scrub and similar shrubland ecosystems

GENUS

Entosthodon

FAMILY

Funariaceae

AUTHORITY

Entosthodon muhlenbergii (Turner) Fife

SYNONYMS

Entosthodon muehlenbergii (Turner) Fife, Funaria muehlenbergii Turner

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FRUITING

Freely produced throughout the year depending on growing conditions



PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2014 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant | Qualifiers: DP, SO

2009 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant | Qualifiers: DP, SO

2005 | Range Restricted | Qualifiers: DP, SO

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 31 August 2007.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/entosthodon-muhlenbergii/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026