

Fissidens anisophyllus

COMMON NAMES

moss

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2025 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: RR

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CATEGORY

Non-vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants 2-6 mm long, loosely gregarious. Stems occasionally branched. Leaves in 4-10 pairs, not overlapping in mid-stem, patent, plane when moist, lightly crisped when dry, oblong-lanceolate, 0.8-1.4 x 0.20-0.25 mm; the apex acute; laminae unistratose; vaginant lamina up to 2/3 of the leaf length, half-open to closed; dorsal lamina tapered, failing before the leaf base; margins entire, serrulate at the apex; marginal cells distinct in 1-2 rows, prosenchymatous, forming a unistratose border which is variably developed but usually present throughout the vaginant lamina and part of the dorsal and apical laminae; cells of the apical and dorsal laminae quadrate to hexagonal, smooth, not bulging, (4.5-)6.0-10.5(-15.0) x (4.5-)6.5-10.5(-12.0) μm . Costa percurrent or failing a few cells below the apex. Dioicous. Perigonia terminal on the main stem or axillary shoots; male and female plants similar size. Perichaetia terminal; perichaetial leaves longer than the vegetative leaves. Seta 1.5-2.0 mm; capsules erect and symmetric, 0.3-5.0 mm; operculum oblique-rostrate. Calyptra smooth, cucullate. Spores 10-14 μm .

SIMILAR TAXA

Very close to *Fissidens leptocladus* from which it differs by its smaller size, less well-developed borders and its less bulging and thinner-walled (and so clearer) leaf lamina cells (Beever et al 2002).

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Wairarapa and Palmerston North)

HABITAT

Terricolous. Lowland. On roadside clay banks and also within an urban park

SUBSTRATE DETAILS

Terricolous.

THREATS

Fissidens anisophyllus is very poorly known and it may possibly be better placed within the highly variable *F. leptocladus* (see comments by Beever et al. 2002). Currently it is known from very few collections. Further specimens would help resolve both its taxonomic and conservation status.

GENUS

Fissidens

FAMILY

Fissidentaceae

AUTHORITY

Fissidens anisophyllus Dixon

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes



ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FRUITING

Fruiting material may be found throughout the year

ETYMOLOGY

fissidens: From the Latin fissio 'fission' and dens 'tooth, prong' meaning split tooth and referring to shape of the lamina.

NVS CODE

FISANI

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2014 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: RR

2010 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: RR

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Beever, J. Malcolm, B.; Malcolm, N. 2002: The moss genus *Fissidens* in New Zealand – an illustrated key. Nelson, Micro-Optics Press.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 12 October 2011. Description from Beever et al (2002).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/fissidens-anisophyllus/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026