

# Fissidens hylogenes

## COMMON NAMES

moss

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Non-vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants 2-3 mm long, delicate, loosely gregarious or occurring as scattered individuals. Stems simple, pale, fleshy, with rhizoids at the base only. Leaves in 3-8 pairs, distant, patent to patulous, erect when moist, irregularly crumpled when dry, oblong-spathulate, 0.75-1/5 x 0.2-0.2 mm; apex broadly acute to obtuse; laminae unistratose; vaginant lamina up to 2/3 the leaf length, half open; dorsal lamina reaching to the leaf base and often decurrent down the stem; margins serrate in the distal half of the leaf ± entire in the proximal half; marginal cells distinct 1-2 rows, shorter and narrower, cells of the apical and dorsal laminae quadrate or rectangular to hexagonal, smooth, not bulging, (18-)25-40(-55) x 15-25 µm. Costa absent. Dioicous. Perigonia terminal, male plants smaller than the female, leaves in up to 5 pairs. Perichaetia terminal; perichaetial leaves longer than the vegetative leaves in up to 5 pairs. Perichaetia terminal; perichaetial leaves longer than the vegetative leaves. Setae 1.5-2.0 mm, colourless, fleshy; capsules 0.4-0.6 mm, erect, symmetric; exothecial cells 32-42 around periphery' operculum erect-rostrate, equalling the theca. Calyptra smooth. mitrate. Spores 10-13 µm.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Fissidens hylogenes is only likely to be confused with the more common and widespread *F. dealbatus* which grows in similar habitats but from which *F. hylogenes* differs by its smaller size (2-3 mm cf. 5-8 mm in *F. dealbatus*) and distinctive serrulate rather than entire leaf margins

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Kermadec (Raoul Island), North (Northland, Waikato and Wellington areas) and Chatham Islands.

## HABITAT

Lignicolous, rarely terricolous or saxicolous. In coastal to montane forest, in dark, densely shaded sites. Often growing on rotting tree-fern trunks, well rotted leaf litter or decorticated wood, infrequently recorded from soil (often on compacted soil at the back of tree caves) or shaded rock.

## THREATS

Fissidens hylogenes has been listed as 'Naturally Uncommon' (see Glenny et al. 2011) because evidence field and herbarium suggests it is a naturally uncommon, sparsely distributed moss. However because this species is so small, it is also very easily overlooked, and it is very likely that Fissidens hylogenes is more widespread than current records suggest.

## GENUS

Fissidens

## FAMILY

Fissidentaceae

## AUTHORITY

Fissidens hylogenes Dixon



## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FRUITING

Fruits may be present throughout the year.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2014 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2010 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

[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.

Glenny, D.; Fife, A.J.; Brownsey, P.J.; Renner, M.A.M.; Braggins, J.E.; Beever, J.E.; Hitchmough, R. 2011: Threatened and uncommon bryophytes of New Zealand (2010 Revision). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 49: 305-327.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (13 November 2011) .Description adapted from Beever et al. (2002).

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026