

Lejeunea apiculata

COMMON NAMES

Liverwort

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2020 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

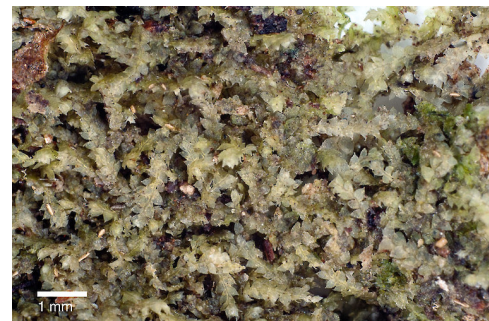
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CATEGORY

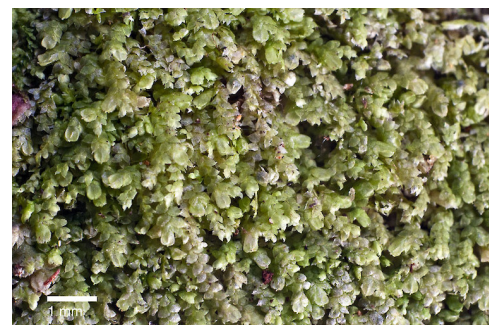
Non-vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Liverworts



Surville Cliffs, on *Metrosideros excelsa*. Feb 2011. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.



Te Pahi, on *Coprosma grandifolia*. Sep 2011. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants light, opaque green, tightly adnate to substrate, leafy shoots up to 675-725 μm broad, freely, irregularly ramified, the leading axes usually gynoeceal, the branches commonly soon androeceal otherwise usually gynoeceal; innovations beneath unfertilised or fertilised gynoecea always developed, at least normally *Lejeunea*-type. Stem slender c.50 μm diameter; cortical cells in 7 rows, somewhat but not greatly firm-walled, surrounding c.4 medullary cell rows of somewhat inferior size. Leaves contiguous to weakly imbricate, ovate-lanceolate, c.250-275 x 500-550 μm , at most feebly convex, the short-acuminate apices often a little deflexed, entire-margined, smooth (marginal cells not or hardly projecting as crenulations), the acuminate apices ending in mostly 3-4 superposed single cells which are subisodiametric or weakly elongated (1: 1-8). Lobules ovoid, strongly inflated except in and near apical tooth, about 0.3 length of lobe, with a blunt 1-celled apical tooth, the fine hyaline papilla at antical base. Underleaves small, c.115-135 x 135-175 μm long. c.0.6-0.7 bifid via a U-shaped sinus, divided to within 2-3 cells of rhizoid-initial region; lobes narrow, often their acuminate apices arched toward each other, 3-4 cells broad at base and long-tapered into a uniseriate apex formed of mostly 2 superposed cells. Rhizoid-initial region prominent, mostly formed of c.12-16 cells giving rise to conspicuous rhizoid-initial discs, the plants closely adherent. Cells in 2-3 marginal rows rather firm-walled and with obscure trigones and weak, isolated intermediate thickenings; laminar cells becoming clearly larger, 23-26 x 24-28 μm , 5-6-angled, weakly or hardly firm-walled but with rather large, $\pm$ convex-sided but not nodular trigones, + isolated, scattered intermediate thickenings. Oil bodies in 1-2 marginal rows lacking, in third row vestigial or small; laminar cells with mostly 4-8 variable usually fusiform oil-bodies varying from transversely few-septate to botryoidal to granular-botryoidal, the larger 4.5-5.5 x 15.0-17.5 μm . Autoecious. Androeceia forming short lateral branches lacking sterile leaves, mostly spicate, compactly so, with c.4-8 or more closely imbricate, inflated pairs of bracts, their arched keels $\pm$ inflated cells; bracts diandrous; bracteoles 1-2 at androeceium base. Gynoecea on short to lateral branches (gynoecea at apices of leading shoots rare; apical dominant normal); always innovating, innovations single, usually remaining sterile but $\pm$ elongating; at times innovations producing 1-2 male and/or female branches. Female bracts in 1 pair, sheathing basal 0.45-0.55 or perianth; bracts with lobes ovate to obovate-lanceolate, acute to longly acute at apex, edentate or with 1-4 variable, obtuse to obscure teeth; lobule lanceolate to narrowly obovate, acute to apiculate, often with a tooth of inner margin, the distal third or more free, the keel short to long, unwinged. Bracteole free, variably obovate to ovate, 0.4-0.6 bifid, sinus V- to narrowly U-shaped, lobes erect and acute, often with 1(-2) teeth of one or both margins. Perianth obovate, a little complanate, the lateral keels more pronounced, the ventral shorter, often weak and abbreviated; perianth keels smooth; perianth apex truncate, the long beak sometimes a little recessed.

SIMILAR TAXA

Lejeunea apiculata is easily distinguished from other *Lejeunea* in New Zealand by the light, opaque green colour (sometimes almost white), and compact growth habit with the plants tightly attached to the substrate, and especially by the contiguous to weakly imbricate, ovate-lanceolate leaves with slightly deflexed short-acuminate apices. Plants are nearly always found bearing perianths.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Islands (Cook Islands (Rarotonga)). In New Zealand recorded from the Kermadec islands (Raoul Island), North Island (Te Paki (Radar Bush, North Cape), Karikari Peninsula, Hihii (near Mangonui), at Maunganui Bluff) and on Chatham Island (see Renner & de Lange 2011; Renner et al. 2021)

HABITAT

On bark or rock (usually basalt). Favouring smaller trees such as *Coprosma grandifolia*, *Geniostoma ligustrifolium* var. *ligustrifolium* and *Melicytus chathamicus*.

THREATS

Once regarded as highly threatened *Lejeunea apiculata* has proved to be more overlooked than it is threatened. In suitable habitats it is often abundant. However, to date it is still only known from a handful of sites suggesting that it is probably Naturally Uncommon.

GENUS

Lejeunea

FAMILY

Lejeuneaceae

AUTHORITY

Sande Lac

SYNONYMS

Stenolejeunea acuminata R.M.Schust., *Lejeunea hawaikiana* M.A.M.Renner et de Lange

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FRUITING

Fruiting material is frequently seen throughout the year

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp, ?SO

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Renner, M.A.M.; de Lange, P.J. 2011. Additions to the Lejeuneaceae Flora of New Zealand: New Species from the Kermadec Islands and Range Extensions of New Zealand species into the South Pacific. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 49: 421–433.

Renner, M.A.M.; de Lange, P.J.; Glenney, D.S. 2021: A synopsis of Aotearoa / New Zealand *Lejeunea* (Lejeuneaceae: Jungermanniopsida) and new species in the *Lejeunea epiphylla* Colenso complex. *Arctoa* 30: 187–212.

[10.15298/arctoa.30.20](https://doi.org/10.15298/arctoa.30.20)

Schuster, R.M. 2000: Studies on Lejeuneaceae, III. Revisionary studies on *Stenolejeunea* Schust. *Journal of the Hattori Botanical Laboratory* 89: 151–171.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (12 February 2008). Description based on Schuster (2000).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lejeunea-apiculata/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026