

Lepidozia acantha

COMMON NAMES

Liverwort

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

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CATEGORY

Non-vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Liverworts

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Procumbent, slender, flexuous plants forming thin mats. Branches spreading, pale green, nitid, finely spinescent when dry, shoots small to medium, to 10 mm wide. Branching of Frullania type, somewhat pinnate, branches slender, short to elongated, whip-like, long-flagelliform and microphyllous; secondary branches absent; branch 1/2-leaf symmetric, linear, bilobed to 0.5; first branch underleaf undivided, subulate, rarely bilobed, inserted on ventral or ventral-lateral face of main axis and aligned with branch underleaves. Ventral-intercalary branches sporadic, leafy. Leaves when dry strongly spreading, plane or slightly concave, contiguous to distant, stem mostly exposed in dorsal aspect, 0.45-0.65 x 0.5-0.65 mm at longest and widest points, the insertion distinctly incubous; leaves \pm symmetric, deeply and subequally 4-lobed, divided to c.0.5-0.6 (median sinus), the distance from dorsal sinus base to insertion slightly greater than that from ventral sinus to insertion. Lobes long and narrowly attenuate, subequally divergent, dorsal lobe 5-7 cells wide at the base, ventral lobes similar to dorsal in size, the lobes terminating in a single cell or more commonly in a uniseriate row of 2-4 cells; cells of uniseriate row somewhat elongated (up to 2.5:1), evenly thick-walled; surface of lobes closely and distinctly short striate-papillose. Disc subsymmetric, subdeltoid, 8-10 cells high at dorsal sinus, 5-8 cells high at ventral sinus, margins entire, dorsal margin straight (at most feebly ampliate), the ventral straight. Cells of disc-middle moderately and evenly thick-walled, subquadrate to longitudinally elongated 18-23 x 27-41 micrometre; median basal cells larger, in one to several rows; surface of disc closely striate-papillose, becoming long-striate at disc base. Underleaves inserted on 5-7 rows of stem cells, rather large for plant size, c. 1-1.5x stem width, plane, spreading, symmetrically quadrifid to c.0.5-0.6, the lobes long and slenderly attenuate, ending in a single cell or more often a uniseriate row of 2-3 cells, the cells of uniseriate row quadrate to elongated; disc 4-6 cells at high median sinus; disc margins entire. Androecia and gynoecia unknown.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Island. Mostly found around Rotorua.

SUBSTRATE DETAILS

Most gatherings come from geothermal sites and pumice country where *L. acantha* forms carpets under kahikatoa (*Leptospermum scoparium*) scrub. Also found on decorticated, rotten bryophyte-covered log in lowland coastal forest near Pakiri, and in montane mixed Podocarp-broadleaf forest in Westland.

THREATS

Probably not threatened but more likely overlooked - this species is one of several superficially similar microphyllous *Lepidozia* that are not easily recognised in the field. Current records suggest that it will probably in time prove to be widespread but still in all probability biologically sparse

GENUS

Lepidozia

FAMILY

Lepidoziaceae

AUTHORITY

Lepidozia J.J.Engel



SYNONYMS

None

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FRUITING

Unknown

NVS CODE

LEPACA

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS

2009 | Sparse | Qualifiers: DP

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Engel, J.J.; Schuster, R.M. 2001: Austral Hepaticae. 32. A revision of the genus *Lepidozia* (Hepaticae) for New Zealand. *Fieldiana, Botany* 42: 1-107.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (5 October 2007). Description adapted from Engel & Schuster (2001)

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lepidozia-acantha/>

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