

# Lindbergia maritima

## COMMON NAMES

moss

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2025 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL

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## CATEGORY

Non-vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Diminutive, coastal. saxicolous, gracile moss, forming loose dull dark green or brownish, rigid mats. Stems 10-15 mm tall, irregularly branched, without a central strand; paraphyllia and pseudoparaphyllia lacking. Leaves appressed when dry, spreading when moist, somewhat concave; lamina 0.2-0.3 x 0.4-0.6 mm, lanceolate or ovate-lanceolate, acute to rounded; leaf margin plane, entire, more or less dentate near the apex, nerve fairly strong, ending below leaf apex in cross-section with uniform cells; cells rounded quadrate or hexagonal, 4.8-9.1 microns, strongly papillose on both surfaces with one unbranched papilla on each side of the cells; basal cells rounded and partly covering each other in many longitudinal rows. Vegetative propagation by brood-branchlets in axillary clusters from the stem apices; leaves bluntly papillose with distinctly toothed margins. Sex organs and sporophytes unknown.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, Waitakere Coast

## SUBSTRATE DETAILS

Saxicolous on andesitic breccia just above high tide mark

## THREATS

At imminent risk of extinction. Only one population is known and this has declined markedly since it was discovered in 1974. The exact reason for the decline is not clear but it may in part be due to associated vegetation changes allowing the moss habitat to become more exposed to wave action and wind.

## GENUS

Lindbergia

## FAMILY

Leskeaceae

## AUTHORITY

Lindbergia maritima Lewinsky

## SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1977)

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No



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## FRUITING

Fruits not known

## ETYMOLOGY

**maritima:** From the Latin mare 'sea', meaning growing on the sea shore

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2014 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Lewinsky, J. 1977. *Lindbergia maritima*, a new moss species from New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 15(2): 193-195. DOI: 10.1080/0028825X.1977.10432542

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange 5 November 2007. Description from Lewinsky (1977).

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lindbergia-maritima/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026