

Notoscyphus lutescens

COMMON NAMES

Liverwort

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2020 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: OL, SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Non-vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Liverworts

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plant forming a light green loose weft, with individual stems to 14.0 x 1.2-1.4 mm. Branching infrequent, ventral intercalary, stems slender, terete, 94-120 μm diameter, cortical cells very thick walled and stem is 7 cells high in TS. Cortical cells in surface view are variable in size and shape 37-59 x 19-26 μm wide. Rhizoids are usually produced in groups at or near underleaf bases or occasionally scattered on stem, near base they are 9-15 μm diameter. The plant is anisophyllous the underleaves being small and deeply bifid. Lateral leaves are alternate, succubous, nearly horizontal, flat when damp, dorsally assurgent when dry, contiguous, short oblong, 430-700 μm long, 270-500 μm wide, margin entire, to slightly bilobed, not inserted to stem midline dorsally but with a single row of cells forming a leaf free gutter, the dorsal leaf bases are slightly decurrent. Underleaves small bifid the lobes lying parallel to the stem and being unequal one being shorter by one or two cells. They are small 250-374 x 94-187 μm , longest lobes 150-210 μm long with 4-7 uniseriate cells based on one biseriate row. Single celled lateral spurs are variably developed on the disc 0-3, usually 1-2, one sometimes has 2 cells. Uniseriate cell walls are thick (c.4.4 μm) and swollen at the corners, the cells are rectangular and 1.3-1.4:1 the tip cell being narrower (c1.5:1). Lateral leaf cells are variable in size the median cells 31-55 x 24-31 μm , The surface usually bears low striae over the whole surface about 20 per cell. Near the base the cells often but not always wider. Trigones triangular, bulging slightly Y shaped 9.0 x 7.5 μm , no intermediate thickening. Oil bodies 2-5 / cell ovoid to spherical, more or less homogenous, pale yellow brown, variable in size 9-13 μm diameter. Sex organs not seen in Kermadec material.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. Kermadec Islands (Raoul Island). Widespread throughout the Pacific from Japan to Indonesia and across the western Pacific Islands to Samoa. Also known from Rarotonga. Extending in the east through Indochina to India with an outlier in South Africa (Natal)

HABITAT

The sole known gathering came from a tree cave made from the trunk and roots of a massive *Metrosideros kermadecensis* tree growing on the eastern flank of Prospect, a local high point on the eastern crater wall of the main caldera of Raoul Island



Raoul Island (Nov 2011) from a specimen collected by Peter de Lange (May 2011).
Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.



Raoul Island (Nov 2011) from a specimen collected by Peter de Lange (May 2011).
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THREATS

Notoscyphus lutescens was first recognised from New Zealand from a gathering made in May 2011 from the eastern flank of Prospect, Raoul Island (Braggins et al. 2014). It is not clear how common it is on Raoul Island but it is probably quite uncommon there as the island has now been pretty thoroughly searched from bryophytes and *Notoscyphus* has not been recorded before. At this stage, because the species was not recognised from New Zealand when the Bryophyte Threat Listing Panel met in May 2009, *Notoscyphus* has no formal listing, however, it probably warrants listing as “Data Deficient” until the bryophyte panel next meet to undertake a new listing.

GENUS

Notoscyphus

FAMILY

Acrobolbaceae

AUTHORITY

Notoscyphus lutescens (Lehm. et Lindenb.) Mitt.

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

Not Applicable - Spore Producing

FRUITING

Not Applicable - Spore Producing

ETYMOLOGY

lutescens: From the Latin luteo ‘yellow’, meaning ‘pale yellow’

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS

2009 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: OL, SO

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Braggins, J.E.; Renner, M.A.M.; de Lange P.J. 2014: Additions to the liverwort flora of the Kermadec Islands, New Zealand Botanical Region. *Telopea* 17: 183-194.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (18 June 2011). Description based on Kermadec material and prepared by J.E. Braggins & P.J. de Lange published later in Braggins et al. (2014)

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/notoscyphus-lutescens/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/notoscyphus-lutescens/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026