

Physcomitrium pusillum

COMMON NAMES

moss

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2025 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: EF, RR

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Non-vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Diminutive yellowish to brownish-green matted moss of muddy ground. Stems 3-6 mm tall, interwoven. Leaves spreading 0.5-1.0 mm long; lamina spatulate, obovate or ovate-oblong, acuminate, margins nearly entire; nerve nearly continuous, reaching apex. Seta 0.5-1.0 mm long (very short) more or less hidden amongst leaves. Capsule erect, immersed subglobose, operculum conical (leaves incurved over capsule when dry), mouth narrow. Calyptra small, conical-mitriiform, covering the operculum only, torn at base. male inflorescence discoid.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. Australia and New Zealand. North Island, Waikato River.

SUBSTRATE DETAILS

Terricolous on muddy ground along streams and rivers

THREATS

Extremely vulnerable to tall, shade tolerant weeds such as Tradescantia, Glyceria and other subaquatic or shade tolerant plants inhabiting river margins. Also vulnerable to changes in water levels which in its only known habitats within a river system subjected to hydro-dam management is a serious issue for this species.

GENUS

Physcomitrium

FAMILY

Funariaceae

AUTHORITY

Physcomitrium pusillum Hook.f. & Wilson

SYNONYMS

None

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FRUITING

Although fruit has been seen insufficient information exists to provide any details on the timing of fruiting

ETYMOLOGY

pusillum: Insignificant, weak



PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2014 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: EF, RR

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL, ?SO

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/physcomitrium-pusillum/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026