

# Physcomitrium readeri

## COMMON NAMES

Moss

## BIOSTATUS

Native

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2025 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: DPR, EF

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## CATEGORY

Non-vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Minute densely tufted plants with leaves forming terminal rosettes. Stems c.0.5 mm tall, simple. Leaves 1.50-1.75 mm long, comose at apex of stem, sparse, irregularly spaced and small below; lamina obovate or spatulate, obtuse or subacute; margins plane, bluntly serrulate towards apex.; nerve failing below apex. Cells 60-80 microns long and 2-3 x 1, subhexagonal; rectangular and longer below, smooth and pellucid. Seta up to 2 mm long, reddish. Capsule very fragile, up to 2 mm long, slightly exerted, widely oval to nearly spherical and near sessile, light-brown with a darker apex, cleistocarpous, with a differentiated conical apiculus. Calyptra mitriform, long and narrow above, with the widened part covering only a small portion of the capsule and with the archegonium neck sometimes adhering. Spores 30-37 microns, dark-brown, echinulate

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. Australia and New Zealand. North and South Islands

## SUBSTRATE DETAILS

Terricolous, (often semi-aquatic) on fine silt and damp soil

## 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.

## GENUS

Physcomitrium

## FAMILY

Funariaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Physcomitrium readeri* Müll.Hal.

## SYNONYMS

*Physcomitrella austro-patens* G.Roth; *Physcomitridium readeri* (C.M.) G.Roth.; *Physcomitrella patens* subsp. *readeri* (Müll.Hal.) B.C.Tan

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

NZPCN follows *Physcomitrium* - see Medina et al. (2019).

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FRUITING

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



## NVS CODE

PHYPSR

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, EF, RR, ?SO

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

R Medina, MG Johnson, Y Liu, N. Wickett, AJ Shaw, B Goffinet. 2014. Phylogenomic delineation of *Physcomitrium* (Bryophyta: Funariaceae) based on targeted sequencing of nuclear exons and their flanking regions rejects the retention of *Physcomitrella*, *Physcomitridium* and *Aphanorrhagma*. *Journal of Systems and Evolution*. 57: 404-417 <https://doi.org/10.1111/jse.12516>

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026