

Plagiochila kirkii

COMMON NAMES

Liverwort

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2020 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Non-vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Liverworts

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Originally described as endemic to Rangitoto Island, this species has turned up on the Paparoa Range (2004) on Chatham Island (2007) and at North Cape (2011). It is probably quite widespread, and has simply been overlooked.

SUBSTRATE DETAILS

Saxicolous on basalt and granite. In damp sites in dense forest and along stream sides.

THREATS

Not threatened. Although regarded as a narrow-range endemic, recent discoveries outside its type locality (Rangitoto Island) suggest that this species is better classified as a Naturally Uncommon, Sparse species - a ranking which was later adopted by Glenny et al. (2011).

GENUS

Plagiochila

FAMILY

Plagiochilaceae

AUTHORITY

Plagiochila kirkii Steph.

SYNONYMS

Plagiochila bazzanioides J.J.Engel et G.L.Sm.; *Plagiochila annotina* Lindenb.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FRUITING

Fruiting period unknown



Rangitoto Island. Feb 2011, (specimen collected by P. J. de Lange). Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.



North Cape. Feb 2011. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.

ETYMOLOGY

kirkii: After Thomas Kirk (18 January 1828 - 8 March 1898), a NZ botanist and lecturer in natural sciences and regarded as a leader of botanical enquiry in NZ for over three decades. One of his most significant publications was Forest flora of NZ (1889) but he also contributed over 130 papers to the Transactions and Proceedings of the NZ Institute and other journals.

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Dp, Sp

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Glenny, D.; Fife, A.J.; Brownsey, P.J.; Renner, M.A.M.; Braggins, J.E.; Beever, J.E.; Hitchmough, R. 2011: Threatened and uncommon bryophytes of New Zealand (2010 Revision). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 49: 305-327.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 3 January 2009.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Plagiochila kirkii* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/plagiochila-kirkii/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/plagiochila-kirkii/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026