

Plagiochila pacifica

COMMON NAMES

liverwort

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2020 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

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CATEGORY

Non-vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Liverworts

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants bright emerald green, large, 40–60 mm long, 8.0–8.5 mm wide with leaves, not glossy, sparingly branched, branching exclusively lateral-intercalary, arising from a creeping rhizome; stem about 450–500 microns in diameter; rhizoids numerous on rhizomes; stem surface partially exposed. Leaves moderately to closely imbricate, oblong-ovate, 3.8–4.3 mm long, 1.9–2.1 mm wide, dorsal leaf base moderately decurrent, margin somewhat recurved, apex subacute, ventral margin arched, sac recurved, entire or with 2 or 3 teeth, moderately decurrent at base; whole leaf margin dentate, teeth 3–6 cells long, 2 or 3 cells wide at base, terminal cell slightly elongated; subapical and median cells 20–23 x 22–24 microns, basal cells 24–27 x 45–60 microns, trigones small, walls moderately thickened throughout, cuticle smooth. Underleaves vestigial. Male plants not seen. Gynoecia terminal, with 1 or 2 innovations, bracts small, perianth obovoid, 4.3 mm long, 2.1 mm wide, keels unwinged. Sporophyte unknown.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Kermadec Islands, Raoul Island

SUBSTRATE DETAILS

In both wet and dry forest types of Raoul Island where it can be saxicolous (on basalt rock, breccia or tuff) or corticolous

THREATS

A widespread and abundant species which is listed only because it is endemic to Raoul Island.

GENUS

Plagiochila

FAMILY

Plagiochilaceae

AUTHORITY

Plagiochila pacifica Mitt.

SYNONYMS

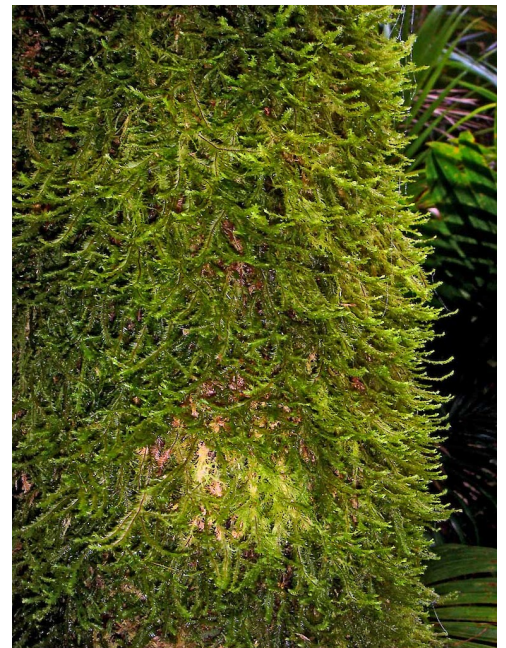
Plagiochila kermadecensis J.J.Engel. et Merrill

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes



Raoul Island. May 2011. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Raoul Island. May 2011. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FRUITING

Unknown

ETYMOLOGY

pacifica: Of the Pacific Ocean.

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, OL

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Engel, J.J.; Merril, G.L.S. 1999: Austral hepaticae 31. two new species of plagiochila(dum.) dum.(plagiochilaceae) from New Zealand. Journal of the Hattori Botanical Laboratory 87: 295-300.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange June 2009. Description adapted from Engel & Merrill (1999).

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

25 May 2026