

Riccardia intercellula

COMMON NAMES

Liverwort

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2020 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: OL

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Non-vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Liverworts

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Monoicous. Thallus pale green, flaccid, creeping 7-10 mm long, 691-860 microns wide with rounded apices. Growth indeterminate, branching alternate to subopposite with simple pinnate development except where a side branch shows continued development. Mucilage papillae dorsal and ventral 100-200 x 16-25 microns, persisting on both surfaces. Rhizoids present on the ventral surface, stolons and gemmae not observed. Axis plano-convex with an acute unwinged margin., thallus 147-163 microns thick; cell walls thin to very slightly thickened and cells of the ventral epidermis and 1-2 underlying layers of less depth than those overlying them. Thalli epidermal cell walls lightly rugose. Dorsal epidermal cells hexagonally elongate, 102 x 25 microns, and 21 microns deep. Ventral epidermal cells all similar 77 x 18 microns, and 21 microns deep. Dorsal subepidermal cells all similar 122 x 34 microns. Ventral subepidermal cells all similar 103 x 26 microns. Internal cells 38 microns deep. Oil-bodies 1-2 brown, granular and ellipsoidal oil-bodies per cell, 13 x 8 microns, common in young growth, less frequent in older. Endophytic mycorrhizae 3-5 microns wide, present in interstices of the 2-3 layers of smaller ventral cells. Male and female branches alternating. Male branches solitary or branched, mostly arising from the main axis, sessile, bearing 1-3 pairs of antheridia. Female branches solitary, positioned like male, with 2-3 pairs of archegonia. Calyptra little known. Sporophyte unknown.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, Glasgow Range

SUBSTRATE DETAILS

Alpine. Terricolous at the base of tussock (*Chionochloa* Zotov) culms.

THREATS

Known only from the type gathering. Exact threats not clear but evidently a very uncommon plant.

GENUS

Riccardia

FAMILY

Aneuraceae

AUTHORITY

Riccardia intercellula E.A.Brown

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1989)

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No



ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FRUITING

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, OL

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brown, E.A.; Braggins, J.E. 1989: A revision on the genus *Riccardia* S.F. Gray in New Zealand with notes on the genus *Aneura* Dum. *Journal of the Hattori Botanical Laboratory* 66: 1-132.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (27 August 2006). Description adapted from Brown & Braggins (1989).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/riccardia-intercellula/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026