

Symphysodontella cylindracea

COMMON NAMES

moss

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2025 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: DPR

CATEGORY

Non-vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Pale green to pinkish-green lustrous moss. Corticolous or terricolous. Secondary stems rigid, ± frondose from a short wiry stipe up to 50 mm long (rarely longer). Leaves oblong-ovate, deeply concave, abruptly short-acuminate; margins entire, broadly inflexed above; costa faint, variable, short and double or unequally forked within one branch extending nearly to mid leaf; cells narrowly linear, smooth, with firm, pale walls, short, porose, and golden brown across insertion. Perichaetial leaves erect. Seta very short; capsule immersed, cylindrical, narrowed towards mouth, urn up to 3 mm long; peristome teeth pale yellow, pellucid, equidistant, smooth, with a median furrow, deeply inserted; calyptra cucullate; spores papillose (n/b Fruiting material not seen in the Kermadec Islands specimen).

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: Kermadec Islands (Raoul Island). Widespread in the Pacific from about the Philippines southeast to about the Cooks and Tahiti

HABITAT

The sole Kermadec Island gathering came from the 'wet' forest type on Raoul Island where it was collected from the basal trunk of a hutu (*Ascarina lucida* var. *lanceolata*) lying amongst cyclone-toppled branches of Kermadec pohutukawa (*Metrosideros kermadecensis*). This species is apparently a common moss of forested islands throughout the Pacific and it usually grows on exposed tree roots, trunks and branches in closed forest situations. On Raoul Island the species has a superficial similarity to another moss genus *Camptochaete* two species of which are known from there, so it is possible that it has been overlooked.

SUBSTRATE DETAILS

Corticolous on hutu (*Ascarina lucida* var. *lanceolata*).

THREATS

Known only from a single gathering made from Raoul Island during the May 2011 Kermadec Biodiscovery Expedition. That specimen was collected from the basal trunk of a hutu (*Ascarina lucida* var. *lanceolata*) lying amongst cyclone-toppled branches of Kermadec pohutukawa (*Metrosideros kermadecensis*) on the south-eastern side of the island near Mahoe. As no further specimens were collected at this stage it seems best to assign this species a threat assessment of 'Data Deficient'.

GENUS

Symphysodontella

FAMILY

Pterobryaceae

AUTHORITY

Symphysodontella cylindracea (Mont.) M.Fleisch.

ENDEMIC TAXON

No



ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FRUITING

Fruiting material not seen in the Kermadec Islands specimen

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Bartram, E.D. 1939: Mosses of the Philippines. *The Philippine Journal of Science* 68: 1-437.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 13 October 2011. Description adapted from Bartram (1939)

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Symphysodontella cylindracea* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/symphysodontella-cylindracea/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/symphysodontella-cylindracea/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026