

Tortula viridipila

COMMON NAMES

moss

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CATEGORY

Non-vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Minute, calcicolous, light brownish-green colonial moss. Stems short, c. 3 mm tall with the leaves densely comose in bulbils, simple or branched. Leaves 2.5-3.0 mm long, imbricate and slightly twisted when dry, erecto-patent when moist; lamina with widened base, oblong-lanceolate, abruptly acuminate, aristate owing to the projecting nerve, concave, entire; margins recurved mid-leaf; nerve strong, slightly widened towards the apex, excurrent in a long, flexuose, green arista which is hyaline at its apex, scarcely denticulate, equal to 1/4 or 1/3 leaf length. Upper cells 13 microns wide, pellucid with firm walls, densely pluripapillose; marginal cells scarcely differentiated; basal cells for 1/4 to 1/3 of the leaf rather lax, shortly rectangular, thin-walled; those at the basal margin slightly narrower. Upper leaves wider, subspathulate. Seta c.10 mm long, red. Capsule c.1.75 mm long, elliptic, brown, glossy. Peristome red, teeth conjoined below in a very short membrane, irregularly filiform, occasionally joined above, oblique or suberect. Columnella exerted. Operculum obliquely rostellate. Calyptra long, tubular above, basally widely dilated. Spores 20 microns, muriculate.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, Kahurangi National Park (possibly elsewhere)

SUBSTRATE DETAILS

Terricolous alpine calcicole, favouring lime-enriched soil.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2014 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: DP

THREATS

A local endemic, abundant within its few known habitats. However the areas occupied are small and they are suspected of being in decline so the species has recently been listed as “Nationally Endangered” (see Glenny et al. 2011).

DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Pottiaceae

AUTHORITY

Tortula viridipila Dixon & Sainsbury

SYNONYMS

Desmatodon viridipilus (Dixon et Sainsbury) Sainsbury

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ECOLOGY

FRUITING

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



OTHER INFORMATION

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2010 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: DP

2005 | Range Restricted

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

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 August 2007.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/tortula-viridipila/>

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