

Brachythecium allisonii

COMMON NAME

Moss

SYNONYMS

Brachythecium subpilosum var. *angustifolium* Allison

FAMILY

Brachytheciaceae

AUTHORITY

Brachythecium allisonii Fife

FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2009 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Canterbury (Craigieburn and Rolleston Ranges), Otago (Flagstaff Hill).

HABITAT

Montane to alpine. On earth, rock, or rotten wood; one collection came from a seepage area.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Medium, soft, yellowish-green, moss forming loose mats. Stems prostrate subpinnately or irregularly branched, yellowish, c.75 mm, in cross-section, brown below, with smooth rhizoids (in bunches on lower side of leaf bases). Branches variable in length. Stem leaves erect-spreading, symmetric, keeled, ovate-lanceolate to lanceolate from a weakly auriculate base, evenly tapered to a narrowly acuminate apex, irregularly recurved or not at margins, concave, slightly decurrent or not, serrulate in lower two-thirds (often more strongly near base), entire or nearly so near apex, 2.6–3.3 × 1.0 mm. Branch leaves somewhat smaller, 2.0–3.0 × 0.5–0.8 mm, strongly serrulate above. Nerve c. 30 µm wide, 1/2–3/4 the length of the leaf (often obscured by leaf plications), with or without a terminal abaxial spine. Upper laminal cells smooth, firm-walled, linear, 90–120 × 5–7 µm, basal cells shorter in c.3–5 rows, alar cells quadrate to irregularly oblong, forming a rather large but indistinct alar group (smaller in branch leaves). Autoicous. Perichaetial leaves acuminate from an oblong base, erect. Perigonia scattered on stems, c.1 mm long, bracts broadly ovate bracts, paraphyses filiform. Setae 13–28 mm, papillose throughout, c. 240–310 µm diameter, weakly twisted to the left below and to the right above, orange to red-brown. Capsules horizontal, asymmetric, 2.5–3.0 mm long, oblong-ovoid, yellowish-brown. Operculum conic, very shortly apiculate. Spores 14–18 µm, nearly smooth.

SIMILAR TAXA

Brachythecium allisonii could be confused with *Palamocladium leskeoides*. However *P. leskeoides* is a basicole, virtually confined to limestone and marble. It has a more strongly toothed lower leaf margin and cordate leaf base and is often a subtle pinkish-golden hue unlike the yellowish-green of the present species.

FRUITING

Present throughout the year

THREATS

Known from three sites where it is locally common. Probably more widespread as its habitat is primarily alpine. Further surveys are needed to ascertain its exact status.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/brachythecium-allisonii/>

