

Ditrichum brachycarpum

COMMON NAME

Moss

SYNONYMS

Ditrichum calcareum (R.Br.bis) Broth.

FAMILY

Ditrichaceae

AUTHORITY

Ditrichum brachycarpum Hampe

FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2009 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: OL, TO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. In New Zealand known only from Canterbury (near Lake Coleridge, Castlehill and near Castlehill Village) and from the Rock & Pillar Range. New Zealand is imperfect and it is not clear if the gatherings so named are actually this species, further recent surveys at some of sites where it had been recorded have failed to locate further specimens

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Saxicolous, densely tufted moss of mostly calcareous substrates. Stems 10 mm or more tall, simple or branched. Leaves 1.5-2.0 mm long, crowded, appressed, rigid, erect or sub-erect, from a widened oblong base narrowed, in the upper leaves rather abruptly but in the lower ones gradually, to a rigid subula. Nerve wide and thick, 100-120 μ m wide at the base, deep orange-red, vanishing in the subula. Cells narrow-linear throughout. Setae 2.5-4.0 mm long. Capsule oblique, inclined, ovate-oblong, slightly narrowed to the mouth, annulate. Peristome single, long filiform, granulate, united at the base into a short tube. Operculum 1/5 length of capsule, united at the base into a short tube. Calyptra cucullate. Antheridia gemmiform, axillary.

FRUITING

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

THREATS

Very vulnerable to competition from weeds, trampling by rock climbers and mining/quarrying for lime and limestone rock. There is some evidence that this species may have declined markedly since rock climbing became more popular in the Castlehill basin (see also *Grimmia plagiopoda*)

SUBSTRATE

Saxicolous on limestone and chlorite schist rocks. Montane to alpine.



MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ditrichum-brachycarpum/>