Drucella integristipula

COMMON NAME
Liverwort

SYNONYMS
Lepidozia integristipula Steph.

FAMILY
Lepidoziaceae

AUTHORITY
Drucella integristipula (Steph.) E.A.Hodgs.

FLORA CATEGORY
Non-vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON
No

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Liverworts

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2009 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS
2004 | Sparse

DISTRIBUTION
Indigenous. Kermadec (Raoul I.), North, South and Chatham Islands. Also Australia (Queensland) and Fiji

Drucella integristipula. Photographer: Bill Malcolm, Licence: All rights reserved.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Anisophyllous, pallid green, nitid plants arising from a basalt system of creeping, microphyllous, strongly elongated, rarely branched rhizomatous or stoloniform axes from which arise ascending to erect branches. Branching irregular, intercalary, lateral. Stem rigid, wiry. Rhizoids occasional, arising at underleaf bases of older sectors of shoots, leaf bases and underleaves of rhizomes and stolons. Leaves contiguous to weakly imbricate, stiff and widely spreading, 160-250 micrometre long, separated by 1-3 cortical cells either side, insertion incubous; leaves asymmetrically cuneate to obtrapezoidal, 2-3-fid. Lobes unequal, entire, dorsal lobe linear-lanceolate, 2-4 cells wide at base, terminating in uniseriate row of 2-4 elongated cells, middle lobe similar to dorsal, ventral lobe smaller. Disc 2-4 cells high 5-6 cells wide, cells pellucid, thick walled, without trigones. Underleaves inserted on 2-3 rows of stem cells, obtrapezoid-quadrate, 2-3-lobed, lobes unequal. Dioecious. Androecia on short ventral-intercalary branches; bracts larger than vegetative leaves, concave, bifid; antheridia 1 per bract, stalk uniseriate. Gynoecia on short intercalary branches; bracts 2-3-seriate, appressed to perianth, 2-5-fid, lobes 2-4 cells wide at base. Perianth ovoid-cylindrical, mouth wide, lobulate-ciliate, cilia terminating in a uniseriate row of 4-8 cells; perianth unistratose. Seta with 8 rows of outer cells core of 14-16 smaller cells. Capsule short-ovoid, small, valves 140-145 x 315-330 micrometre, bistratose. Spores 8.6-13.2 micrometre diameter, reddish-brown or yellow-brown, reticulate. Elaters rigid 8.2-16 micrometre wide, slightly tapered, bispiral, spirals 2.4-2.9 micrometre wide.

FRUITING

October - January

THREATS

A biologically sparse, naturally uncommon plant that is widespread but rarely abundant at any particular site.

SUBSTRATE

Clay, impoverished soil and saprolite (rarely rock). Usually on damp, heavily shaded banks where it often grows under the overhanging fronds of kiokio (Blechnum novae-zelandiae) in association with Paracromastigium and Lepidozia species. Rarely it has been found on peat.

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 31 August 2007.

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/drucella-integristipula/