

Epipterygium opararense

COMMON NAME

Moss

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Bryaceae

AUTHORITY

Epipterygium opararense Fife et A.J.Shaw

FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand, South Island, near Karamea

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Pale green or brownish green apparently dioicous moss with metallic sheen when dry. Stems pale yellowish or reddish brown, several arising from a common point near base, unbranched up to 15 mm tall, 180-210 micrometre diameter, base with nearly smooth yellowish brown rhizoids. Leaves distichously arranged, asymmetric (especially toward base), 1.5-2.1 x 0.7-0.85 mm, broadly elliptic from a narrow base, apex broadly acute, reducing in size toward stem base; margins plane, entire rarely finely crenulate, apex often bluntly toothed; costae 1/3-2/3 length of leaves, broad more or less diffuse at base, rarely branched, cell of upper lamina thin walled porenchymatous 90-195 x 21-30 micrometre, at margins firmer-walled, linear, 225-270 micrometre long. Perichaetia terminal, leaves somewhat narrower than vegetative, others similar, archegonia 5-8 lacking paraphyses. Perigonia and sporophytes unknown.

FRUITING

Capsules unknown

THREATS

Known from only one extant location where it is very vulnerable to human traffic, plant collectors and flooding. Previously collected from another more distant location in 1981 from where it has not been seen since.

SUBSTRATE

Granite boulders and soil in riparian *Nothofagus fusca* (Hook.f.) Oerst. dominated forest.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/epipterygium-opararense/>

