

# Erpodium glaucum

## COMMON NAME

Moss

## SYNONYMS

*Aulacopilum glaucum* Wilson

## FAMILY

Erpodiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Erpodium glaucum* (Wilson) I.G.Stone

## FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, TO

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

A minute moss distinguished by the blue-grey to grey-colour when fresh, acuminate to acute leaves which lack a nerve and by the distinctive sporophytes which (when present) are covered by a long sheathing calyptra

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island (Te Pahi (Unuwahao Bush), Tuhua (Mayor Island), East Cape (Raukokore River)). Also Australia, South Africa, Sri Lanka

## HABITAT

Corticolous on the bark of trees such as puriri (*Vitex lucens*) and on the leaves of taraire (*Beilschmiedia tarairi*). Usually associated with other small foliose liverworts such as *Frullania* and *Lejeunea* spp.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Corticolous, minute, pale glaucous-green, slender moss. Stems up to 10 mm long, densely matted together, soft and fragile. sparingly radiculose, irregularly or pinnate branched. Leaves c.0.5 mm long, appressed when dry, spreading when moist, the lateral leaves asymmetrical, ovate, acute or acuminate, the ventral leaves symmetrical, distinctly narrowly acuminate; lamina usually with a hyaline apiculus or short mucro, margins plane and entire. Nerve lacking. Cells throughout 12-13 microns long, rounded-hexagonal, thin-walled, multipapillose on both faces. Upper perichaetial bracts much longer than the foliage leaves, sheathing, ovate-acuminate, with longer rhomboid-hexagonal cells. Seta 0.7-0.8 mm long. Capsule up to 0.5 mm long, erect, symmetrical, ovate-globose, mouth truncate. Peristome lacking. Calyptra very long, covering the capsule and the upper part of the seta, plicate, split and twisted.

## FRUITING

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

## THREATS

Known from very few collections. Highly threatened by habitat loss. Vulnerable to plant collectors.

## SUBSTRATE

Corticolous on bark in coastal forest

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 29 August 2011. Description adapted from Sainsbury (1955).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Sainsbury, G.O.K. 1955: A handbook of the New Zealand mosses. Royal Society of New Zealand Bulletin 5.



### **NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION**

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Erpodium glaucum* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/erpodium-glaucum/>  
(Date website was queried)

### **MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/erpodium-glaucum/>