

# Fissidens rigidulus var. pseudostrictus

## COMMON NAME

Moss

## FAMILY

Fissidentaceae

## AUTHORITY

Fissidens rigidulus var. pseudostrictus J.E.Beever

## FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

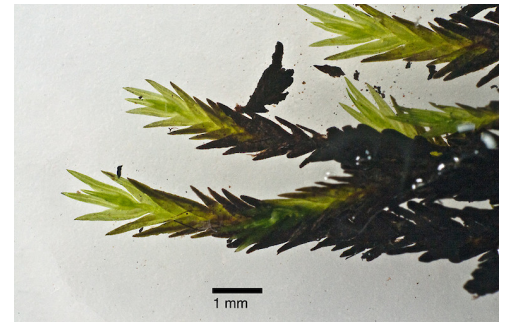
2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North, South and Chatham Islands (from Te Pahi south to about Taupo with one record from the Wairarapa, thence recorded once from Nenthorn Otago and once again from Rangiauria (Pitt Island) in the Chatham Islands group).

## HABITAT

Saxicolous on base rich rocks such as basalt or chlorite schist with one record from ignimbrite. Lowland usually in densely forested areas. A rheophyte usually growing completely immersed in fast flowing streams (often under waterfalls and in similar steep sections of narrow streams). Often found growing sympatrically (most often syntopically) with *Fissidens rigidulus* var. *rigidulus* and *F. waiensis*.



Te Pahi. Sep 2011. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.



Te Pahi. Sep 2011. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants medium-sized for the genus, saxicolous, aquatic, dark green to black, shoots 5.0–30.0 x 1.5–2.5 mm, branched; shoot branches readily detached, rhizoids at base of shoot branches and well developed in axils of older leaves; leaves in 10–50 pairs, straight to falcate when moist, little altered when dry, broadly lanceolate, 1.5–3.0 x 0.30–0.75 mm, acute; vaginant lamina 2/3 of leaf length; extending across the lamina to a variable degree; dorsal lamina reaching to stem; costa failing about 4 cells before leaf apex, surface cells moderately broad-lumened, deuter cells exposed on the adaxial face; leaf margins entire to very weakly crenulate; border of prosenchymatous cells absent or variably developed on margin, or intramarginally, on vaginant laminae, extending in some cases onto apical and dorsal laminae; apical, dorsal, and vaginant laminae variably bi- to pluristratose; lamina cells irregularly quadrate to hexagonal, medium thick-walled, 7.5–22 µm long, smooth, larger near the costa and often covering the costa in proximal part of the leaf. Apparently dioicous; male inflorescences terminal on main or axillary shoots; female inflorescences and sporophytes not seen.

## FRUITING

Fruiting material has not yet been seen

## THREATS

*Fissidens rigidulus* var. *pseudostrictus* is still relatively poorly known but opportunistic survey suggests that it is not very common (though it can be locally abundant in a very few locations), and rather sparsely distributed. It is seemingly absent from large parts of the country despite an abundance of suitable habitat. Currently no specific threats have been identified although it seems likely that this moss requires reasonably clean, fast flowing water, ideally within forested habitats - though it has been found in urban Auckland and also within a stream flowing through tussock grassland in Otago.

## SUBSTRATE

Saxicolous - mostly on base rich rocks.

## ETYMOLOGY

**fissidens:** From the Latin fissio 'fission' and dens 'tooth, prong' meaning split tooth and referring to shape of the lamina.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (11 October 2011). Description adapted from Beever & Stone (1999).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Beever, J.E.; I.G. Stone 1999: Studies of *Fissidens* (Bryophyta: Musci): new taxa and new records for New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 37: 643-657.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Fissidens rigidulus* var. *pseudostrictus* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/fissidens-rigidulus-var-pseudostrictus/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/fissidens-rigidulus-var-pseudostrictus/>