

Gigaspermum repens

COMMON NAME

moss

SYNONYMS

Anictangium repens Hook.; Leptangium repens Mitt.

FAMILY

Gigaspermaceae

AUTHORITY

Gigaspermum repens (Hook.) Lindb.,

FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2009 | Range Restricted | Qualifiers: SO

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. South Africa, Australia, New Zealand. In New Zealand known from a few sites in the North (Hawke's Bay and Ruahine Range), South (Oamaru) Stewart and Chatham Islands

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Autoicous, terricolous, minute moss. Stems creeping, buried, producing minute, mostly fertile tufts, up to 5 mm tall, barren tufts inconspicuous, fertile tufts conspicuous. Leaves on sterile stems spreading; lamina whitish-green; suborbicular to orbicular, apiculate; on fertile stems slightly larger, imbricating, ovate, narrowed into a long, slender acuminate apex; margins entire; nerve absent. Capsule urceolate, sessile, sunk amongst colourless to white, scariose, perichaetial leaves; capsule mouth very wide, closed by a fine membrane; Spores very large up to 130 microns diameter; orange, multi-tangled and finely papillose. Male inflorescences usually axillary below female, antheridia with filiform paraphyses.

FRUITING

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

THREATS

Not apparent threats. Listed because it qualifies as Range Restricted within the New Zealand part of its range.

SUBSTRATE

Terricolous and apparently calcicolous. Usually on damp rendzina or similar lime-enriched soil. Also on soils derived from basalt. Favouring sites free of other taller plants.

ETYMOLOGY

repens: From Latin repere meaning to creep, means creeping

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gigaspermum-repens/>

