

# Goebelobryum vermiculare

## COMMON NAME

Liverwort

## SYNONYMS

None - first described in 2012 (see Engel & Glenny 2012)

## FAMILY

Acrobolbaceae

## AUTHORITY

Goebelobryum vermiculare J.J.Engel et Glenny

## FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Liverworts

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | At Risk – Relict

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous: New Zealand (North, South and Chatham Islands. Also Tasmania. In New Zealand mostly recorded from the Waikato, and north-western South Island. Scarce on the Chatham Islands.

## HABITAT

Terricolous. In New Zealand restricted to lowland acidic bogs - especially those dominated by the restiads *Sporadanthus* and *Empodisima*, and heathlands, or on poorly drained, podzolised soils.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Goebelobryum unguiculatum* from which *G. vermiculare* differs by 'worm-like' growth habit, with strongly dorsally assurgent, often darkly red-pigmented (magenta) leaves, whose apices are sparingly incised (or not).

*Goebelobryum unguiculatum* has leaves which are weakly to moderately dorsally assurgent, yellow-green to golden sometimes faintly tinged rose or reddish (never magenta), and whose apices are prominently incised and lobulate

## FLOWERING

Not applicable - produces sporophytes

## FRUITING

Sporophytes may be seen throughout the year

## LIFE CYCLE

Hairy mericarps are dispersed by wind and possibly attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult - should not be removed from the wild



Kopouatai Peat Dome. Growing in shade. Jul 2007. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.



Kopouatai Peat Dome. Growing in shade. Jul 2007. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.

## THREATS

Although widespread and mostly common within its chosen habitats, the wetlands this species prefers are now scarce due to past drainage, and in some cases the lack of fires to keep them open. This species, as *Goebelobryum* aff. *unguiculatum* (CHR 527492: Charleston) has been assessed as 'At Risk / Relict' by Glenny et al. (2011). This assessment is probably still appropriate.

## ETYMOLOGY

**vermiculare:** From the Latin *vermiculus* 'little worm' and *-aris* 'resembling', meaning worm-shaped, i.e. thick and almost cylindrical but bent in different places.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 June 2014).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Engel, J.J.; Glenny, D. 2012: Austral Hepaticae 48. *Goebelobryum* Grolle (Acrobolbaceae). *Nova Hedwigia* 95: 319-336.

Glenny, D.; Fife, A.J.; Brownsey, P.J.; Renner, M.A.M.; Braggins, J.E.; Beever, J.E.; Hitchmough, R. 2011: Threatened and uncommon bryophytes of New Zealand (2010 Revision). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 49: 305-327.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/goebelobryum-vermiculare/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/goebelobryum-vermiculare/>