

Lepidozia fugax

COMMON NAME

Liverwort

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 2001)

FAMILY

Lepidoziaceae

AUTHORITY

Lepidozia fugax J.J.Engel

FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Liverworts

NVS CODE

LEPFUG

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2009 | Data Deficient

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island (near Whakamaru), South Island (Haast Pass, Mt Aspiring National Park)



DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants forming diffuse, prostrate patches on decorticated wood, branches stiff and wiry, spreading green to greenish-yellow, shoots to 12 mm wide. Branching of Frullania-type, short to rather long, irregularly 1-2-pinnate, primary and secondary branches often whip-like; branch half-leaf subsymmetrical, basal portion rounded to subcordate, 2-lobed to third of base; first branch underleaf 2-3-lobed inserted on ventral side of branch base to the ventral-lateral side of junction of main axis and branch. Ventral-intercalary branching occasional, leafy. Leaves fragile, easily detached, concave when dry, dorsal lobes stiffly spreading, apices of ventral lobes incurved, not visible in dorsal view; leaves when moist usually of ragged appearance, weakly concave, contiguous to imbricate, stem usually visible in dorsal view, 0.3-0.5 mm wide and long, spreading, insertion incubous, lamina variable in shape, subsymmetric to somewhat asymmetric, subequally to unequally 4-5-lobed, leaves divided to 0.3-0.5. Lobes acuminate, tips caducous, lobes becoming slender and 2 cells wide for most of length, terminating in a uniseriate row, turgid, barrel-shaped, septa constricted, terminal cell rounded at apex. Disc moderately to distinctly asymmetric 9-13 cells high at dorsal sinus, 6-7 cells high at ventral sinus, dorsal margin ampliate, cordate at insertion, otherwise entire to sinuate; ventral margin subcordate at insertion, entire or with a single tooth. Underleaves inserted on 7 rows of stem cells, strongly spreading c.1.5-2x stem width, broader than high, symmetrically 4-fid to 0.3-0.5 (median sinus), lobes slender, acuminate, tips caducous, terminating in a single cell or a uniseriate row of 2-3 cells; disc 5-7 cells high at median sinus, margins plane, entire. Asexually reproducing by caducous tips of leaf lobes. Plants dioecious. Androecia inconspicuous, on short, determinate, spicate, ventral-intercalary branches. Gynoecia on abbreviated ventral-intercalary branches issuing from main stem. Perianth long and prominent, slender, cylindrical-fusiform, weakly curved, terete below, slightly trigonous above, distinctly and deeply 3-plicate toward mouth, perianth gradually narrowing toward the strongly contracted, weakly 3-lobed crenate-denticulate mouth; mouth cells thick, papillose, apical ends laterally free for varying lengths. Seta with 8 rows of outer cells surrounding an inner core of numerous, smaller cells. Capsule oblong, wall 26-30 microns thick, of 3 layers. Spores 12.4-13.0 microns diameter, wall brown bearing coarse, sharply defined, papillae and short-vermiculate markings. Elaters rigid, 8.6-9.1 microns wide, slightly, gradually tapering towards the bispiral tips, spirals 3.4-3.8 microns wide.

FRUITING

fruiting periods as yet unknown

THREATS

Probably more overlooked than actually threatened. This species was described in 2001 and is so far known from very few gatherings. Nevertheless the disjunction between the western South Island and Central North Island suggests it is probably a Naturally Uncommon, sparsely distribution species with specific habitat requirements.

SUBSTRATE

Decorticated wood - mostly recorded from Nothofagaceae but also Podocarpus totara

ETYMOLOGY

fugax: From the Latin fugax 'fleeting, transitory, ephemeral'

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (5 October 2007). Description adapted from Engel & Schuster (2001)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Engel, J.J.; Schuster, R.M. 2001: Austral Hepaticae. 32. A revision of the genus *Lepidozia* (Hepaticae) for New Zealand. *Fieldiana, Botany* 42: 1-107.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lepidozia-fugax/>