

Lindbergia maritima

COMMON NAME

Moss

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1977)

FAMILY

Leskeaceae

AUTHORITY

Lindbergia maritima Lewinsky

FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, Waitakere Coast

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Diminutive, coastal. saxicolous, gracile moss, forming loose dull dark green or brownish, rigid mats. Stems 10-15 mm tall, irregularly branched, without a central strand; paraphyllia and pseudoparaphyllia lacking. Leaves appressed when dry, spreading when moist, somewhat concave; lamina 0.2-0.3 x 0.4-0.6 mm, lanceolate or ovate-lanceolate, acute to rounded; leaf margin plane, entire, more or less dentate near the apex, nerve fairly strong, ending below leaf apex in cross-section with uniform cells; cells rounded quadrate or hexagonal, 4.8-9.1 microns, strongly papillose on both surfaces with one unbranched papilla on each side of the cells; basal cells rounded and partly covering each other in many longitudinal rows. Vegetative propagation by brood-branchlets in axillary clusters from the stem apices; leaves bluntly papillose with distinctly toothed margins. Sex organs and sporophytes unknown.

FRUITING

Fruits not known

THREATS

At imminent risk of extinction. Only one population is known and this has declined markedly since it was discovered in 1974. The exact reason for the decline is not clear but it may in part be due to associated vegetation changes allowing the moss habitat to become more exposed to wave action and wind.

SUBSTRATE

Saxicolous on andesitic breccia just above high tide mark

ETYMOLOGY

maritima: From the Latin mare 'sea', meaning growing on the sea shore

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange 5 November 2007. Description from Lewinsky (1977).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Lewinsky, J. 1977. *Lindbergia maritima*, a new moss species from New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 15(2): 193-195. DOI: 10.1080/0028825X.1977.10432542



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NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lindbergia-maritima/>