

Meteoriopsis reclinata

COMMON NAME

Moss

FAMILY

Meteoriaceae

AUTHORITY

Meteoriopsis reclinata (Müll.Hal.) Broth.

FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Mosses

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2009 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: SO

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: Kermadec Islands (Raoul Island only). Present also in Australia (Queensland), south-east Asia, India, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and the Philippines.

HABITAT

Corticolous on the canopy branches of a range of trees in the 'wet forest' on Raoul Island.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants robust, epiphytic, creeping, yellow-green to brown-yellow. Stems sparsely branched. Leaves spreading, lanceolate and narrowly acuminate, weakly clasping but not auriculate at base, strongly serrulate above, rather weakly serrulate below and nearly to base, both weakly twisted and weakly undulate at apex, mostly c. 3.5 mm. Mid laminal cells linear-fusiform, mostly with only 1-2 papillae on each surface, strongly porose, apparently most 30–42 µm long (but the outline/limit of each cell mostly obscure and apparently longer near costa); alar cells oblong or subquadrate, forming a small group c. 4 cells wide and 4–5 cell high. Costa thin, mostly extending to mid-leaf or somewhat beyond. Sex organs and sporophytes not seen in New Zealand material.

FRUITING

Not observed in the Raoul Island gatherings



Raoul Island, Kermadec Islands (from a specimen collected by Peter de Lange), Feb 2012. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.



Raoul Island, Kermadec Islands (from a specimen collected by Peter de Lange), Feb 2012. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.

THREATS

Unknown. Only recently (September 2009) recognised for New Zealand from a chance gathering made in May 2009 from the Moumoukai summit ridge, Raoul Island. In May 2011 further gatherings were made from other places on Raoul (Smiths Bluff Track, Denham Bay Track) suggesting that this species may warrant "Naturally Uncommon" status. Its preference for high canopy habitats has meant that it is rarely seen in situ, being mostly found as fallen material littering the ground after strong storms. There are no obvious threats but as the species was not recognised in the field its exact status on Raoul is unclear. It may be common or it may be extremely scarce. Further survey is needed.

SUBSTRATE

Epiphytic. The sole New Zealand gathering was made from the bark of Kermadec hutu (*Ascarina lucida* var. *lanceolata*) where it grew through through the thallus of a large foliose blue green *Sticta* (possibly *S. samoensis*)

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (10 January 2010).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/meteoriopsis-reclinata/>