

# Physcomitrella patens subsp. readeri

## COMMON NAME

Moss

## SYNONYMS

Physcomitrella austro-patens G.Roth; Physcomitridium readeri (C.M.) G.Roth.

## FAMILY

Funariaceae

## AUTHORITY

Physcomitrella patens subsp. readeri (Mull.Hal.) B.C.Tan

## FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, EF, RR, ?SO

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. Australia and New Zealand. North and South Islands

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Minute densely tufted plants with leaves forming terminal rosettes. Stems c.0.5 mm tall, simple. Leaves 1.50-1.75 mm long, comose at apex of stem, sparse, irregularly spaced and small below; lamina obovate or spatulate, obtuse or subacute; margins plane, bluntly serrulate towards apex.; nerve failing below apex. Cells 60-80 microns long and 2-3 x 1, subhexagonal; rectangular and longer below, smooth and pellucid. Seta up to 2 mm long, reddish. Capsule very fragile, up to 2 mm long, slightly exerted, widely oval to nearly spherical and near sessile, light-brown with a darker apex, cleistocarpous, with a differentiated conical apiculus. Calyptra mitriform, long and narrow above, with the widened part covering only a small portion of the capsule and with the archegonium neck sometimes adhering. Spores 30-37 microns, dark-brown, echinulate

## FRUITING

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

## THREATS

Extremely vulnerable to tall, shade tolerant weeds such as Tradescantia, Glyceria and other subaquatic or shade tolerant plants inhabiting river margins. Also vulnerable to changes in water levels.

## SUBSTRATE

Terricolous, (often semi-aquatic) on fine silt and damp soil

## ETYMOLOGY

**patens:** Spreading

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/physcomitrella-patens-subsp-readeri/>

