

# Physcomitrium pusillum

## COMMON NAME

Moss

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Funariaceae

## AUTHORITY

Physcomitrium pusillum Hook.f. & Wilson

## FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL, ?SO

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. Australia and New Zealand. North Island, Waikato River.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Diminutive yellowish to brownish-green matted moss of muddy ground. Stems 3-6 mm tall, interwoven. Leaves spreading 0.5-1.0 mm long; lamina spathulate, obovate or ovate-oblong, acuminate, margins nearly entire; nerve nearly continuous, reaching apex. Seta 0.5-1.0 mm long (very short) more or less hidden amongst leaves. Capsule erect, immersed subglobose, operculum conical (leaves incurved over capsule when dry), mouth narrow. Calyptra small, conical-mitriform, covering the operculum only, torn at base. male inflorescence discoid.

## 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 which in its only known habitats within a river system subjected to hydro-dam management is a serious issue for this species.

## SUBSTRATE

Terricolous on muddy ground along streams and rivers

## ETYMOLOGY

**pusillum**: Insignificant, weak

## Where To Buy

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/physcomitrium-pusillum/>

