

Plagiochila baylisii

COMMON NAME

Liverwort

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1971)

FAMILY

Plagiochilaceae

AUTHORITY

Plagiochila baylisii Inoue et R.M.Schust.

FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Liverworts

NVS CODE

PLABAY

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, Fiordland.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants medium-sized, 20.0-30.0 x 2.8-3.5 mm, pale brown to pale greenish-yellow; leafy shoot erect or more or less ascending from a long creeping caulid, rhizome. Stem bright brown, 15-17 cells in cross-section. Plants mostly simple, rarely branched, rather rigid, branching lateral-intercalary, very rarely terminal; descending flagella sometimes developed at the base of branches and/or lower portion of stem. Rhizoids absent from aerial portion, restricted to rhizomatous caulid and/or flagella. Leaves moderately to closely imbricate, obvolute, decurved along dorsal margin, moderately decurrent dorsally but obscurely so ventrally, widely ovate or triangularly ovate, as wide or nearly as wide as long, 1600-1875 x 1340-1700 microns, dorsal margin more or less convex or nearly straight, with 1-7 spinose or spinose-ciliate, strong teeth which are 1-4 cells wide at base, 2-8 cells long; ventral margin strongly ampliate at base with truncate basal margin, with 7-13 variable, spinose to spinose-ciliate teeth, these 1-3 cells wide x 2-8 cells long, with sharp, elongate, terminal cell; leaf apex narrowed, nearly always with 2 distinct, large, coarse teeth or incipient lobes and sometimes 1-2 additional small teeth. Underleaves vestigial, oblong or bilobed to near base. Asexual reproduction not seen. Males unknown. Gynoecia terminal on leading stem, with 1-2 innovations; bracts ovate-oblong 1000-2100 x 850-2000 microns, strongly inflated at the base, with revolute or strongly recurved dorsal margins bearing 4-9 spinose teeth; ventral margin more or less undulate, bearing 10-15 spinose teeth, apex with 2 conspicuous teeth; perianth cylindrical c.1200-2700 x 700-1600 microns, dorsal and ventral keels not winged, mouth slightly to distinctly bilabiate, margin arched, strongly and irregularly spinose-dentate. Capsule valves comprised of 6-8 cells, 62-82 microns thick. Spores 15-20 microns, coat subglobose, minutely punctate; elaters c. 10 x 800-1300 microns, often once branched, bispiral.



FRUITING

Fruiting period unknown

THREATS

Originally known from only a single gathering. Fieldwork within Fiordland has now ascertained that *Plagiochila baylisii* is fairly widespread though narrow-range endemic

SUBSTRATE

Terricolous on peat in coastal forest.

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 3 January 2009.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/plagiochila-baylisii/>