

Plagiochila pacifica

COMMON NAME

Liverwort

SYNONYMS

Plagiochila kermadecensis J.J.Engel. et Merrill

FAMILY

Plagiochilaceae

AUTHORITY

Plagiochila pacifica Mitt.

FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Liverworts

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, OL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Kermadec Islands, Raoul Island

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants bright emerald green, large, 40–60 mm long, 8.0–8.5 mm wide with leaves, not glossy, sparingly branched, branching exclusively lateral-intercalary, arising from a creeping rhizome; stem about 450–500 microns in diameter; rhizoids numerous on rhizomes; stem surface partially exposed. Leaves moderately to closely imbricate, oblong-ovate, 3.8–4.3 mm long, 1.9–2.1 mm wide, dorsal leaf base moderately decurrent, margin somewhat recurved, apex subacute, ventral margin arched, sac recurved, entire or with 2 or 3 teeth, moderately decurrent at base; whole leaf margin dentate, teeth 3–6 cells long, 2 or 3 cells wide at base, terminal cell slightly elongated; subapical and median cells 20–23 x 22–24 microns, basal cells 24–27 x 45–60 microns, trigones small, walls moderately thickened throughout, cuticle smooth. Underleaves vestigial. Male plants not seen. Gynoecia terminal, with 1 or 2 innovations, bracts small, perianth obovoid, 4.3 mm long, 2.1 mm wide, keels unwinged. Sporophyte unknown.

FRUITING

Unknown

THREATS

A widespread and abundant species which is listed only because it is endemic to Raoul Island.



Raoul Island. May 2011. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Raoul Island. May 2011. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SUBSTRATE

In both wet and dry forest types of Raoul Island where it can be saxicolous (on basalt rock, breccia or tuff) or corticolous

ETYMOLOGY

pacifica: Of the Pacific Ocean.

References

Engel, J.J.; Merrill, G.L.S. 1999: Austral hepaticae 31. two new species of plagiochila(dum.) dum.(plagiochilaceae) from New Zealand. Journal of the Hattori Botanical Laboratory 87: 295-300.

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange June 2009. Description adapted from Engel & Merrill (1999).

MORE INFORMATION

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