

Riccardia furtiva

COMMON NAME

Liverwort

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1989)

FAMILY

Aneuraceae

AUTHORITY

Riccardia furtiva E.A.Brown & Braggins

FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Liverworts

NVS CODE

RICFUR

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2009 | Range Restricted | Qualifiers: SO, DP

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. Australia and New Zealand. In New Zealand recorded from both North and South Islands

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Monoicous plant found creeping at the bases of other bryophytes. Thallus small, filamentous, clear green with cell walls in older regions often pigmented brown. Growth indeterminate, branching usually simply pinnate to bipinnate, main axis and side branches not differentiated. Thalli 7-20 mm long, 141-196 microns wide. Apices rounded. Mucilage papillae 25 x 15 microns, dorsal, ventral and occasionally lateral, persisting for less than 1/3 of thallus (rarely not persisting at all). Rhizoids ventral, occasional. Gemmae not observed. Stolons absent. Axis biconvex to almost plano-convex, with subacute to rounded margin, 90-268 microns (7-13 cells) thick, cells of similar size throughout thallus, with cell walls notably thickened, sometimes heavily so in central region, epidermal cells often chlorotic. Dorsal epidermal cells isodiametric to oblong, 16-26 x 13-18 microns, and 9-13 microns deep. Ventral epidermal cells tending to be oblong rather than isodiametric, 23-40 x 13-19 microns, and 10-15 microns deep. Dorsal subepidermal more hexagonally elongate, 20-38 x 15-19 microns. Ventral subepidermal and internal cells similar. Oil-bodies: sparse or absent, if present then 5-14 x 4-8 microns and confined to the heavily thickened internal cells, or present as small (5 x 4 microns) pale brown, granular structures in subepidermal cells. Endophytic mycorrhizae sparse or absent. Male and female branches commonly on separate branch systems. Male branches solitary, shortly stalked, arising from the main or large axial branches. Antheridial cavities on dorsal surface in 2-6 pairs, separated by 2-4 cells. Female branches solitary, occurring in any region of the main axis or on the side branches with 1-5 pairs of archegonia. Calyptra covered with irregularly arranged multicellular protrusions. Sporophytes poorly known, few seen have Riccardia Type IV thickening, outer cell walls with the inner tangential and adaxial radial thickened, the walls of the inner cell layer apparently lacking bands of thickening or with ill-defined bands.

FRUITING

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

THREATS

Almost certainly incorrectly listed as Range Restricted. This species is biologically sparse and appears to be widespread but never common. It may not even be threatened. The specific epithet *furtiva* alludes to the ease with which this species is overlooked, a critical point when making a conservation assessment!



SUBSTRATE

Terricolous on damp or soggy often peaty ground, in deeply shaded sites, where it usually grows threaded through other bryophytes (often at their bases)

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (27 August 2006). Description adapted from Brown & Braggins (1989).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brown, E.A.; Braggins, J.E. 1989: A revision on the genus *Riccardia* S.F. Gray in New Zealand with notes on the genus *Aneura* Dum. *Journal of the Hattori Botanical Laboratory* 66: 1-132.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Riccardia furtiva* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/riccardia-furtiva/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/riccardia-furtiva/>