



Acromastigum verticale

Common Name(s):

Liverwort

Current Threat Status (2009):

Nationally Vulnerable

Distribution:

Indigenous. North, South and Stewart Islands.

Features:

Plants usually occurring as isolated stems admixed with other bryophytes, more rarely as discrete plants. Stems mostly unbranched, to 7 mm. long, 0.2 mm. thick, flagella mostly one on each stem, usually short, with minute, distant, retuse or entire leaves, becoming smaller and more distant towards the apex. Leaves ovate-triangular, squarrose or with the upwards part of the leaf curved upwards, or even hamate, transverse attachment, 0.6 mm. long. 0.4 mm. wide at the widest part, concave, apices variable. obtuse or bluntly acute, shortly bifid with divergent lobes or curiously curved backwards towards the ventral margin. Cells 30–40 micrometre, still larger in the basal part, walls sinuous to stellate, caused by the very large trigones with bulging sides. Stipules, the width of the stem or a little more, 0.3 mm. tall, ovate-rotund, mostly entire, rarely very shortly bifid, more regular in shape than the leaves. Perianth 3.5 mm. long, 0.5 mm. broad at the base, narrowed to the apex, mouth piliferous, hair-points to 0.3 mm. long, crooked and entangled, a little toothed and in one instance branched. Seta as long as the perianth. Innermost pair of involucrel leaves reaching almost 1/3 up the perianth, with narrow apices, shortly bifid reflexed. Second pair reaching half-way tip the innermost, with similar apices.

Fruiting:

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

Threats:

Known from very few recent sites and at most of these it is seriously threatened by coal mining

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=4930



Caption: *Acromastigum verticale*

Photographer: John Braggins, Oct 2006