



Physcomitrium pusillum

Common Name(s):

Moss

Current Threat Status (2009):

Nationally Critical

Distribution:

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

Features:

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-mitriiform, 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.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=4975