



Plagiochila baylisii

Common Name(s):

Liverwort

Current Threat Status (2009):

Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island, Fiordland.

Features:

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, obvolvate, 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. Gynoecea 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

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=4976