



Plagiopus oederiana

Common Name(s):

Moss, Oeder's Apple-moss

Current Threat Status (2009):

Nationally Critical

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: South Island (North-West Nelson, in the Owen Range (Kahurangi National Park)). Also Europe, the Caucasus, Asia, Japan China, Greenland, Hawaii, and eastern North America. In the Pacific Northwestern North America it is known from Alaska, Canadian Arctic, Washington, Oregon, and Colorado

Habitat:

Saxicolous. Found on shaded or wet calcareous rocks in montane, subalpine and alpine areas especially common on cliffs and on rocks in crevices and vertical faces.

Features:

Plants in dense, dull green to yellowish-brown tufts up to 10 cm tall; stems \pm covered with brown rhizoids, triangular in cross-section; leaves linear-lanceolate, acute, keeled, 2–5 mm long, erect to spreading when moist, somewhat crisped and contorted when dry; margins unistratose, recurved, coarsely serrate above, smooth below; costa single, percurrent, toothed near the apex on dorsal side; upper median cells quadrate to rectangular, cuticle irregularly roughened in longitudinal lines or ridges appearing as minutely plurepapillose; basal cells longer and smooth. Synoicous; paraphyses numerous; seta straight, 7–18 mm long; capsules \pm globose, brown to reddish-brown, zygomorphic, suberect to inclined, strongly ribbed when dry; peristome teeth double, endostome yellow, exostome dark brown; spores coarsely papillose, globose to ellipsoidal, 15–27 μ m

Threats:

Known from very few sites and even fewer plants. Threatened mainly by the small population size and area of occupancy than by any other more direct human-induced threat(s).

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=4978



Caption: *Plagiopus oederiana*
Photographer: Bill Malcolm



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