



## *Scorpiurum cucullatum*

### **Common Name(s):**

Moss

### **Current Threat Status (2009):**

Data Deficient

### **Distribution:**

Indigenous. Australia and New Zealand. In New Zealand known from the North Island (Kawakawa) and South Island (Nelson, Pelorus).

### **Habitat:**

Corticolous and terricolous on rotting wood and damp silt - usually in wetlands, willow car or on the banks of streams and rivers. Plants are often covered in silt.

### **Features\*:**

Small, dirty-green, interwoven moss with weakly ascending or prostrate, curved branches. Primary stems creeping. Secondary stems 10-20 mm, forked or subpinnately branched, in cross-section oval, with 5 or more layers of thick-walled outer cells and a distinct central strand; rhizoids smooth, brown, sparse. Stem and branch leaves differentiated; branch leaves erect and subtubulose when dry, loosely spreading and concave when moist, elliptic-ovate, widest at or near middle, broadly acute or obtuse, 0.6-0.9 x 0.35-0.40 mm, not decurrent or plicate, margins bluntly denticulate in upper 1/4; upper laminal cells (beyond costa) and cells near margins rhombic, firm-walled and smooth, 21-30 x c.9 microns, mid laminal cells more elongate (35-45 microns); alar cells quadrate or subquadrate, firm-walled, forming a very large but ill-defined group extending nearly to the costa and upwards on the margin for c.150-225 microns (c.15-20 cells). Costa 30 microns wide at base, tapered, weakly spurred above, extending c.2/3 to apex, without terminal spine. Autoicous. Perichaetia scattered on stem and branches, with leaves erect and apparently ecostate. Perigonia scattered, c.0.6 mm. Setae stout, 4-5 mm, yellow-brown, weakly flexuose, papillose or smooth; capsule obovoid, weakly inclined, yellow brown, not narrowed at mouth, 1.1 x 0.65 mm. Spores 20-24 microns.

### **Fruiting:**

Fruiting plants have been recorded once from New Zealand during August

### **Threats:**

Known from a few gatherings made in 1979 from two locations (Kawakawa and Rai Valley) that have since been heavily modified through development and flooding. It has not been relocated at either site despite considerable search effort. Glenny et al. (2011) suggest that this species may be better listed as a "Vagrant".

### **\*Attribution:**

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (1 October 2007).

### **References and further reading:**

Glenny, D.; Fife, A.J.; Brownsey, P.J.; Renner, M.A.M.; Braggins, J.E.; Beever, J.E.; Hitchmough, R. 2011: Threatened and uncommon bryophytes of New Zealand (2010 Revision). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 49: 305-327.

### **For more information, visit:**

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