



Archidium elatum

Common Name(s):

Moss

Current Threat Status (2009):

Nationally Vulnerable

Distribution:

Endemic to New Zealand, known from three sites in the North Island (Ahipara, Bay of Islands and Lake Rotomahana) and from one site on the main Chatham (Rekohu) Island (Otauwae Point).

Features*:

Dark brown-green or yellow-brown tufted moss. Individual plants 7-15 mm tall, stems simple or weakly branched, stem leaves 0.7-1 x 0.25-0.30 mm erecto-patent, spreading, occasionally reduced to bracts below. Plants sterile, archegonia present, antheridia unknown; perichaetium terminal, perichaetial leaves erect to erecto-patent, channelled, 1.3-1.5 x 0.30-0.35 mm, narrowly deltoid, linear-lanceolate or lanceolate, base ovate, apex acute to broadly acuminate, margins plane or recurved, entire, occasionally serrulate; costa broad, flattened, 88 micrometre (69-115 micrometre) wide in median section, filling 1/3 or more of leaf base, subpercurrent to percurrent; median cells firm-walled, varying in shape from quadrate, trapezoidal to tabular or narrowly rhomboidal; mostly tabular to rhomboidal 20-50 x 9-12 micrometre, upper cells mostly rhomboidal, reaching 50-70 micrometre along margins, alar and basal cells uniformly quadrate to short-tabular, smaller than median cells, 14-28 x 9-14 micrometre.

Fruiting:

Capsules unknown in this species

Threats:

Kikuyu grass (*Pennisetum clandestinum* Chiov.) has been identified as a threat and possible cause of extinction at one site. The possibility that *A. elatum* has been overlooked over large parts of its range must be considered highly likely.

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange August 2007.
Description based on Sainsbury (1955).

References and further reading:

Sainsbury, G.O.K. 1955: A Handbook of the New Zealand mosses. Royal Society of New Zealand Bulletin 5: 1-490.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=4992



Caption: *Archidium elatum*
Photographer: Bill Malcolm



Caption: *Archidium elatum*
Photographer: Bill Malcolm