



Zoopsis nitida

Common Name(s):

Liverwort

Current Threat Status (2009):

Sparse

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island (Waipoua to the Waitakere Ranges)

Features:

Plants glossy, dark-green, creeping. Stems 13-15 mm long, broad and flat, plano-convex to biconvex, 0.34-0.55 mm wide at the widest point. 0.06-0.07 mm high, sparingly branched, in two ways: terminal, Frullania-type branching, and unilateral, ventral-intercalary branching; intercalary branches short (1.5 mm long) and infrequent (1-2 per plant). Branches often attenuate at apex. Ventral-intercalary flagellae present, hyaline. Cells of the central strand in 9-12 rows. Leaves caducous, present only near the growing tip of stem or branches where they are present as single cells, or rarely as 3-celled ephemeral vestiges. Under-leaves vestigial. Rhizoids arising from ventral median cells in fascicles from the bases of the under-leaves, hyaline 70 microns long, unicellular with a clavate apex. Cells of the dorsal surface 70-150 x 120-170 microns, 30-40 microns deep. Cells of the ventral surface 60-80 x 100-140 microns, 20-25 microns deep. Cells of the central strand on the ventral surface 100-110 x 40-50 microns, 12 microns deep. Oil bodies 4-35 per cell, 4 x 4 microns to 10 x 10 microns to 13 x 5 microns, spherical to spindle-shaped, botryoidal, pale greyish (the smallest spherical and almost smooth; the larger spherical to spindle-shaped and distinctly botryoidal). Dioicous. Perianths on short ventral branches, pyriform, 1.1-1.6 x 0.6 mm, divided at the apex into 6 teeth, each 0.5-0.7 mm long (about one-third of the perianth). Gynoecial bracts c. 9 mm long, trilobed, with teeth of varying height, the largest 600 microns, the smallest 260 microns long. Seta c. 6 mm long at maturity, 180-200 microns diameter, with 8 outer cell rows (cells 110-160 x 50 microns), c. 12 inner cell rows of small diameter. Capsule c. 0.5 mm diameter with segments c. 630 x 240 microns, with outer wall cells 13 x 4 microns with transverse thickenings. Spores c. 15 microns diameter, spherical, finely reticulate-ridged. Elaters 150-290 microns long, spirally thickened.

Fruiting:

Have been seen but range is unknown

Threats:

Since its description in 1997 knowledge of this species has improved. It is now no longer regarded as threatened. A spate of recent gatherings show that this species is naturally uncommon but widely distributed and so is best rated sparse

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=5007



Caption: Waipoua.

Photographer: John Braggins



Caption: *Zoopsis nitida*

Photographer: John Braggins,
Waipoua Forest