



Blindia lewinskyae

Common Name(s):

moss

Current Threat Status (2009):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island, Westland where it is mainly found from Westport south to the Paparoa National Park

Features*:

Autoicous moss up to 200 mm long, olive-green to black, with yellow-green to dark-green stem tips, forming dense, soft, flexuose tufts. Stems with outer cells thick-walled. Leaves flexuose-secund when dry, similar when moist, 9.0-15.0 mm long, from an oblong-lanceolate base quickly narrowed to a flexuose, filiform subula, acute, lamina c.3 mm long, about 1/4 to 1/6 the subula length; margins entire. Nerve 60-120 x 6-10 microns, linear to elongate, walls 2-3 microns thick, thin-walled, those near nerve orange, more or less thick-walled, somewhat porose and straight. Alar cells 30-70 x 10-20 microns, somewhat larger than basal cells, gradually differentiated and forming a decurrent, thin-walled group, rectangular, some leaves with hyaline and more or less inflated cells. perichaetial leaves from a wide, ovate base quickly contracted to a long subula c.6-8x lamina length, concave, sheathing. Seta 4.0-7.0 mm long, rigid stout, straight (not twisted), erect. Capsules with urns 0.7-1.2 x 0.7-1.0 mm, exserted. Exothecial cells near mid urn 20-40 x 20-30 microns, irregularly rectangular to quadrate-rounded, moderately thick-walled, pachydermous, becoming smaller distally, rim cells elliptic to rounded, thinner-walled. Stomates not seen. Peristome reduced to a few, hyaline, rectangular cells. Operculum conic, stoutly rostrate, beak long, more or less bent. Spores 28-44 microns.

Fruiting:

Fruits may be found throughout the year

Threats:

Not Threatened. Listed because it is a naturally uncommon, range restricted species. However, some populations on the Stockton Plateau are at risk from coal mining

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 30 September 2007. Description adapted from Bartlett & Vitt (1986).

References and further reading:

Bartlett, J.K.; Vitt, D. H. 1986: A survey of the species in the genus *Blindia* (Bryopsida, Seligeriaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 24: 203-246.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=5041



Caption: *Blindia lewinskyae* showing growth habit

Photographer: Bill Malcolm



Caption: *Blindia lewinskyae* sporophytes

Photographer: Bill Malcolm