



Brachythecium subpilosum

Common Name(s):

moss

Current Threat Status (2009):

Range Restricted

Distribution:

Indigenous. South Island: Mt McRae (St. Arnaud Range). Present also in Australia, South America (Argentina and Chile), South Georgia and the South Shetland Islands.

Habitat:

Terricolous usually alpine, often within *Chionochloa pallens*/*C. australis* grassland in damp sites with *Schoenus pauciflorus*.

Features:

Medium-sized, bright-green, moss forming dense mats. Stems prostrate to suberect, irregularly branched, c. 60 mm, in cross-section, and bearing brown, smooth rhizoids in bunches on the lower side of the leaf bases. Branches 5–20 mm long. Stem leaves erect-spreading, symmetric, c. 2.0–2.5 × 0.7–0.9 mm. ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, moderately keeled (usually with two pleats extending from base for half of leaf length), recurved below on one or both sides, recurvation often extending to one half or three quarters the length of the leaf, moderately concave, weakly decurrent, entire throughout or finely serrulate near apex, Branch leaves slightly smaller, 1.6–2.0 × 0.5–0.6 mm, scarcely decurrent, distinctly serrulate, usually twisted near apex. Nerve extending for one half to two-thirds of the leaf length. Upper laminal cells smooth, firm-walled, linear, 54–90 × 5–7 μm, basal cells shorter in c.5 rows, alar cells quadrate to shortly oblong, seriate, forming a moderately differentiated group extending for 8 or so cells up the basal margin. Autoicous? Perichaetial leaves ovate-lanceolate, ecostate, patent above. Perigonia and sporophytes not seen in New Zealand plants.

Fruiting:

Fruiting specimens have not been observed in New Zealand

Threats:

Known from a single gathering. Probably better treated as Data Deficient

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