



Tortula viridipila

Common Name(s):

moss

Current Threat Status (2009):

Threatened - Nationally Endangered

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island, Kahurangi National Park (possibly elsewhere)

Features*:

Minute, calcicolous, light brownish-green colonial moss. Stems short, c. 3 mm tall with the leaves densely comose in bulbils, simple or branched. Leaves 2.5-3.0 mm long, imbricate and slightly twisted when dry, erecto-patent when moist; lamina with widened base, oblong-lanceolate, abruptly acuminate, aristate owing to the projecting nerve, concave, entire; margins recurved mid-leaf; nerve strong, slightly widened towards the apex, excurrent in a long, flexuose, green arista which is hyaline at its apex, scarcely denticulate, equal to 1/4 or 1/3 leaf length. Upper cells 13 microns wide, pellucid with firm walls, densely pluripapillose; marginal cells scarcely differentiated; basal cells for 1/4 to 1/3 of the leaf rather lax, shortly rectangular, thin-walled; those at the basal margin slightly narrower. Upper leaves wider, subspathulate. Seta c.10 mm long, red. Capsule c.1.75 mm long, elliptic, brown, glossy. Peristome red, teeth conjoined below in a very short membrane, irregularly filiform, occasionally joined above, oblique or suberect. Columnella exerted. Operculum obliquely rostellate. Calyptra long, tubular above, basally widely dilated. Spores 20 microns, muriculate.

Fruiting:

Although fruit has been seen insufficient information exists to provide any details on the timing of fruiting

Threats:

A local endemic, abundant within its few known habitats. However the areas occupied are small and they are suspected of being in decline so the species has recently been listed as "Nationally Endangered" (see Glenny et al. 2011).

***Attribution:**

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange August 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.

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