



Aloina ambigua

Common Name(s):

moss

Current Threat Status (2009):

Non Resident Native - Vagrant

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island (Te Pahi, Hawkes Bay and Carterton) (see Glenny et al. 2011; also P.J. de Lange unpubl. data). Also Europe, North Africa, North America and Australia (South Australia and Victoria).

Habitat:

Lowland. Collected from clay at the bottom of roadside drains and from a cemetery.

Features*:

Terricolous. Leaves slightly curled when dry, long and spreading when moist, c.1.0-3.0 × 0.3-0.7 mm, lingulate, base shortly sheathing, apex cucullate, incurved, ± obtuse (± subacute when flattened out), margin entire. Upper cells quadrate to rectangular, transversely elongate, trigones prominent, basal cells rectangular, slightly smaller than upper cells, trigones similar, walls firm. Costa ceasing at or below apex, filaments short, 3-6 cells high, branched, terminal cell nearly spherical to elongately ovoid. Dioecious. Seta 6-12 mm long, red, paler above. Capsule erect, elongately cylindrical, dark brown; operculum elongate; annulus narrow, persistent; calyptra hardly covering more than the operculum; peristome teeth weakly twisted when dry, borne separately on a distinct basal membrane projecting above the theca mouth. Spores 14-16 µm.

Fruiting:

September

Threats:

Known from only three sites from where it is evidently spreading. Indications are that it is a recent arrival to New Zealand, although whether it is naturalised or indigenous is still not clear. The few known sites are all in sites vulnerable to changes in roading and landuse. *Aloina ambigua* is abundant in Australia.

***Attribution:**

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 13 October 2011. Description adapted from Catcheside (1980).

References and further reading:

Catcheside, D.G. 1980: Mosses of South Australia. Government Printer, South Australia

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.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=6722