



Symphysodontella cylindracea

Common Name(s):

moss

Current Threat Status (2009):

Data Deficient

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: Kermadec Islands (Raoul Island).
Widespread in the Pacific from about the Philippines southeast to about the Cooks and Tahiti

Habitat:

The sole Kermadec Island gathering came from the 'wet' forest type on Raoul Island where it was collected from the basal trunk of a hutu (*Ascarina lucida* var. *lanceolata*) lying amongst cyclone-topped branches of Kermadec pohutukawa (*Metrosideros kermadecensis*). This species is apparently a common moss of forested islands throughout the Pacific and it usually grows on exposed tree roots, trunks and branches in closed forest situations. On Raoul Island the species has a superficial similarity to another moss genus *Camptochaete* two species of which are known from there, so it is possible that it has been overlooked.

Features*:

Pale green to pinkish-green lustrous moss. Corticolous or terricolous. Secondary stems rigid, ± frondose from a short wiry stipe up to 50 mm long (rarely longer). Leaves oblong-ovate, deeply concave, abruptly short-acuminate; margins entire, broadly inflexed above; costa faint, variable, short and double or unequally forked within one branch extending nearly to mid leaf; cells narrowly linear, smooth, with firm, pale walls, short, porose, and golden brown across insertion. Perichaetial leaves erect. Seta very short; capsule immersed, cylindrical, narrowed towards mouth, urn up to 3 mm long; peristome teeth pale yellow, pellucid, equidistant, smooth, with a median furrow, deeply inserted; calyptra cucullate; spores papillose (n/b Fruiting material not seen in the Kermadec Islands specimen).

Fruiting:

Fruiting material not seen in the Kermadec Islands specimen

Threats:

Known only from a single gathering made from Raoul Island during the May 2011 Kermadec Biodiscovery Expedition. That specimen was collected from the basal trunk of a hutu (*Ascarina lucida* var. *lanceolata*) lying amongst cyclone-topped branches of Kermadec pohutukawa (*Metrosideros kermadecensis*) on the south-eastern side of the island near Mahoe. As no further specimens were collected at this stage it seems best to assign this species a threat assessment of 'Data Deficient'.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 13 October 2011. Description adapted from Bartram (1939)

References and further reading:

Bartram, E.D. 1939: Mosses of the Philippines. *The Philippine Journal of Science* 68: 1-437.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=6724



Caption: Raoul Island.
Photographed dry. Oct 2011.
Photographer: Allan Fife from a specimen collected by Peter de Lange



Caption: Raoul Island.
Photographed moist. Oct 2011.
Photographer: Allan Fife from a specimen collected by Peter de Lange