

HERPETINEURON

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Herpetineuron (Müll.Hal.) Cardot, *Beih. Bot. Centralbl.* 19(2): 127 (1905); from the Greek *herpeton* (a snake) and *neuron* (a nerve), in reference to the sinuous distal part of the costa.

Anomodon Hook. & Taylor sect. *Herpetineuron* Müll.Hal., *Flora* 13: 497 (1890).

Type: *H. toccoe* (Sull. & Lesq.) Cardot

Dioicous. Plants medium-sized to robust, dull green, olive-green, yellow-green or brownish green, forming thick dense mats. Primary stems creeping-prostrate, sparsely irregularly branched; branches arcuate to circinate, becoming attenuate-flagelliform. Branch leaves plane to concave, not brittle, ovate-lanceolate, somewhat secund; apex acute to acuminate; upper margins serrate to toothed; costa single, long, almost reaching the apex. Median laminal cells rounded-quadrate to somewhat hexagonal, ±translucent, smooth or weakly prorate, not much differentiated near the leaf base.

Seta long, slender, twisted. Capsules erect, exserted, symmetrical, 1.5–3.0 mm long. Peristome: exostome teeth not or weakly divided distally; endostome segments with short distinct processes. Calyptra smooth.

A genus of two species, *Herpetineuron* is related to *Anomodon sens. str.*, but it differs in having a more well-developed peristome and smooth laminal cells. One species is known from tropical to subtropical eastern Australia.

References

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Watanabe, R. (1972), A revision of the family Thuidiaceae in Japan and adjacent regions, *J. Hattori Bot. Lab.* 36: 171–326.

Herpetineuron toccoe (Sull. & Lesq.) Cardot, *Beih. Bot. Centralbl.* 19(2): 127 (1905)

Anomodon toccoe Sull. & Lesq., *Musci Bor.-Amer.* [52] (1856). T: Toccoa Falls, Georgia, U.S.A.; *n.v.*

Illustrations: V.F. Brotherus, *op. cit.* 316, fig. 661G–M; R. Watanabe, *op. cit.* 320, pl. 54.

Plants dull green to olive-green or yellowish green. Primary stems 1–5 cm long, irregularly pinnately branched; secondary branches long, robust, 1–5 cm long. Stem and branch leaves not complanate, 1–3 mm long, appressed and somewhat inrolled when dry, spreading when wet; apex acute, subtended by several large teeth. Distal and median laminal cells ±smooth, rhomboidal to oblong, 7–16 × 5–9 µm, translucent; proximal cells similar or somewhat longer.

Seta 5–15 mm long. Capsules 2–3 mm long. Spores 12–15 µm diam., papillose.

Occurs on bark and rock in north-eastern Qld and north-eastern N.S.W. Also in North, Central and north-eastern South America, the Caribbean, central and southern Africa, India, Sri Lanka, Malesia and South-east and East Asia.

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Qld: Massey Creek Gorge, McIlwraith Ra., Cape York, *I.Clarkson 26238* (BRI); Maalan, 11 km E of Ravenshoe, 30 June 1984, *H.Streimann s.n.* (NY); Ravenshoe, *W.W.Watts 598* (NSW); Black Mountain Road, N from Kuranda, *I.G.Stone 16150* (MELU). N.S.W.: Toonumbar Forest Way, Toonumbar S.F., Eden Creek, 26 km NW of Kyogle, *H.Streimann 7013* (CANB).