

PSEUDOSCLEROPODIUM

Lars Hedenäs¹

Pseudoscleropodium (Limpr.) M.Fleisch., in V.F.Brotherus, *Nat. Pflanzenfam.*, 2nd edn, 11: 394 (1925); from the Greek *pseudo-* (false) and the genus name *Scleropodium*.

Type: *P. purum* (Hedw.) M.Fleisch.

Dioicous. Plants medium-sized or large, turgid, pinnately or irregularly pinnately branched; branches ±straight when dry. Stem leaves straight, ±plicate or not; costa single, ending 45–70% up the leaf, smooth; margin in apiculus and just below ±distinctly denticulate, in lower part broadly recurved or reflexed. Median laminal cells linear, incrassate or slightly incrassate, eporose or slightly porose, smooth; alar cells rectangular, short-rectangular or quadrate, slightly inflated, forming a small triangular or broadly ovate group near the basal leaf margin, short-decurrent or not. Sporogone not seen in Australian material.

This genus is monotypic.

Reference

Hedenäs, L. (2002), An overview of the family Brachytheciaceae (Bryophyta) in Australia, *J. Hattori Bot. Lab.* 92: 51–90.

Pseudoscleropodium purum (Hedw.) M.Fleisch., in V.F.Brotherus, in H.G.A.Engler & K.A.E.Prantl, *Nat. Pflanzenfam.* 2nd edn, 11: 395 (1925)

Hypnum purum Hedw., *Spec. Musc.* 253, pl. 66, figs 3–6 (1801); *Scleropodium purum* (Hedw.) Limpr., *Laubm. Deutschl.* 3: 147 (1896). T: Europe; holo: G, *vide* L.Hedenäs (1996).

Illustrations: E.Nyholm, *Illustrated Moss Flora of Fennoscandia* 2(5): 558 (1965); A.J.E.Smith, *The Moss Flora of Britain and Ireland* 597 (1978); H.A.Crum & L.E.Anderson, *Mosses of Eastern North America* 2: 1079 (1981); L.Hedenäs, *op. cit.* 72, fig. 7D (2002); D.Meagher & B.Fuhrer, *A Field Guide to the Mosses and Allied Plants of Southern Australia* 73 (2003); W.M.Malcolm, N.Malcolm, J.Shevock & D.Norris, *California Mosses* 270 (2009).

Dioicous. Plants medium-sized or large, turgid, pinnately or irregularly pinnately branched, with straight or at most slightly curved branches, green or yellow-green. Axillary hairs 4–6 per axil, with (3–) 4–9 upper cells. Stem leaves erect, imbricate to subimbricate, strongly concave, broadly obovate to broadly ovate; apex broadly obtuse or rounded, apiculate; branch leaves more rounded; costa single, 66–135 µm wide at the base, ending in mid-leaf or slightly above, not ending in a spine. Median laminal cells 46.0–105.0 × 4.0–7.5 µm; alar cells quadrate or rectangular, slightly inflated, incrassate and often porose, in small triangular or broadly ovate groups near the basal leaf margin, extending 20–25% of the distance to the leaf centre at insertion.

Occurs in in N.S.W., Vic. and Tas.; on the ground in forest, mostly close to roads and paths and at altitudes up to 700 m. Possibly native only in Europe, but reported from many other regions including North America, St Helena, Reunion, Sri Lanka, Japan, New Zealand and the Hawaiian Islands.

N.S.W.: Monga S.F., *H.Streimann 49026 (Musci Australas. Exsicc. 76)* (CANB, S). Vic.: Emerald Lake road, 25 Oct. 1970, *G.A.M.Scott* (MELU); track to Lala Falls, *H.Streimann 50819* (CANB); Stillwell Valley, *H.J.Lam 7831* (L). Tas.: Strickland Avenue, Hobart, 14 May 1980, *A.V.Ratkowsky* (HO).

This species is generally thought to have been introduced into Australia and New Zealand, and it should be informative to follow its continued dispersal and establishment in the region.

¹ Swedish Museum of Natural History, Department of Cryptogamic Botany, Box 50007, SE-104 05 Stockholm, Sweden.

The differences between this species and *Scleropodium touretii* are discussed in the treatment of the latter.

The haploid chromosome numbers 7, 9, 10 and 11 have been reported for this species from Europe and Japan (R.Fritsch, *Bryophytorum Biblioth.* 40: 1–352, 1991).