

MESONODON

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Mesonodon Hampe, *Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot.*, sér. 5, 4: 367 (1865); from the Greek *meso-* (middle) and *odontos* (a tooth), possibly referring to the structure and composition of the peristome.

Note on etymology: Hampe (1865) referred to the peristome of *Lepyrodon*, which consists of an endostome only, as “simplex, internum; membrana in cruribus 16 elongatis carinatis...”, while he described the peristome of *Entodon* as “duplex”, distinguishing between outer teeth (“exter. dentibus”) and inner structures (“inter. ciliis angustissimis”), the latter actually endostome processes, not cilia. He referred to the peristome of *Mesonodon* as “simplex, intermedium (in pariete intermedia thecae oriundum)...”, apparently assuming the teeth arose from cell walls of a layer between the exostome teeth and the endostome “cilia”. A possible alternative derivation of the genus name, based on the the depth to which the teeth are inserted, does not make sense, insofar as the teeth in *Mesonodon* are even more deeply inserted than those of *Entodon*.

Type: *M. flavescens* (Hook.) W.R.Buck

Plants forming glossy green to yellowish green mats. Stems creeping, irregularly branched, terete-foliate to slightly homomallous, somewhat julaceous; central strand present. Leaves crowded, erect to appressed when dry, erect-spreading when moist, lanceolate, plicate, canaliculate below, plane above, acuminate; costa lacking. Laminal cells linear, thin-walled; alar cells quadrate to short-rectangular, forming conspicuous oval to \pm triangular patches, not or scarcely ascending along the leaf margin.

Perichaetia along stems; leaves sheathing, lanceolate, straight, not plicate. Capsules erect, cylindrical; stomata absent; operculum rostrate, slightly oblique. Peristome very deeply inserted; exostome teeth pale yellow, narrowly triangular, fenestrate at the apex, on outer side horizontally striate below the capsule mouth, diagonally to vertically striate and papillose above; prostome present, adhering to the exostome, papillose; endostome rudimentary, lacking a basal membrane; processes narrow, discontinuous, adhering to the exostome teeth, smooth. Spores coarsely papillose.

Mesonodon is a genus of two species, one endemic to South America, the other pantropical. It differs from *Entodon* in its plicate, narrowly decurrent leaves, the absence of stomata, and the much more reduced endostome.

References

- Buck, W.R. (1980), A generic revision of the Entodontaceae, *J. Hattori Bot. Lab.* 48: 71–159.
- Enroth, J. (1991), Bryophyte flora of the Huon Peninsula, Papua New Guinea. XLII. Entodontaceae (Musci), *Acta Bot. Fenn.* 143: 43–55.

Mesonodon flavescens (Hook.) W.R.Buck, *J. Hattori Bot. Lab.* 48: 117 (1980)

Pterygonium flavescens Hook., *Musci Exot.* 2: 155 (1819); *Campylodontium flavescens* (Hook.) Bosch & Sande Lac., *Bryol. Javan.* 2: 128 (1865). T: Nepal, *D.Gardner*; holotype: BM.

Illustrations: W.R.Buck, *op. cit.* 116, figs 32, 33; J.Enroth, *op. cit.* 49, fig. 3a–d; W.R.Buck, *Mem. New York Bot. Gard.* 82: 291, pl. 114, figs 8–14 (1998).

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Plants medium-sized. Stems creeping, to c. 30 mm long. Leaves crowded, erect to erecto-patent, oblong-lanceolate, 1.7–2.2 mm long, narrowly decurrent; apex flat, acuminate. Laminal cells $75\text{--}100 \times 7\text{--}11 \mu\text{m}$; alar cells forming a patch 6 or 7 rows wide.

Seta 11–15 mm long, yellowish to orange. Spores 25–33 μm diam.

Occurs in north-eastern Qld where it is usually epiphytic in disturbed rainforest or on exotic trees in gardens or grazing land; at altitudes of 660–780 m. Also in Central Africa, the Caribbean and northern South America, the Himalayas, SE Asia and Malesia.

Qld: McHugh Bridge over Beatrice R., Palmerston Hwy, between Ravenshoe and Innisfail, *D.H.Vitt 28084* (CANB); Paluma village, Paluma Ra., 40 km S of Ingham, *H.Streimann 58048* (CANB); Yungaburra road, 2 km SE of Atherton, *H.Streimann 16846* (CANB); Palmerston Hwy, 1 km SSW of Millaa Millaa, *H.Streimann 46218* (CANB); Rex Ck, Mossman Gorge, Daintree River Natl Park, 6 km W of Mossman, *H.Streimann 45865* (CANB).

Mesonodon flavescens can be distinguished from both Australian species of *Entodon* by its plicate leaves and somewhat julaceous appearance.