

EPHEMERACEAE

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Ephemeraceae Schimp., *Coroll. Bryol. Eur.* 3 (1856).

Type: *Ephemerum* Hampe

Dioicous, autoicous, rhizautoicous or synoicous. Plants minute, terrestrial, ephemeral, scattered or gregarious, attached to a persistent protonema. Stem short, often reduced to a minute cluster of cells. Leaves in a rosette, few; outer ones bract-like; perichaetial leaves usually much longer, ovate to lanceolate or linear, with the apex acute to acuminate, sometimes awned; margin entire, serrate or ciliate-dentate; costa often interrupted, sometimes absent, homogeneous in T.S.; laminal cells large, rectangular, rhomboidal to irregularly hexagonal, smooth, often prorate.

Calyptra campanulate, sometimes cucullate; vaginula rounded, rarely elliptical. Setae very short or vestigial. Capsules subglobose to globose, short-apiculate, immersed; Australian representatives cleistocarpous with stomata in the basal part (*Ephemerum*), or stegocarpous with stomata below the dehiscence line (*Nanomitriopsis*). Spores large.

This family comprises three genera, two of which (*Ephemerum* and *Nanomitriopsis*) occur in Australia. The third, *Micromitrium* Austin, is characterised by a minute calyptra and a stegocarpous capsule lacking stomata. Goffinet *et al.* (2012) included *Ephemerum* and *Nanomitriopsis* in the Pottiaceae.

Reference

Goffinet, B., Shaw, A.J. & Buck, W.R. (2012), *Classification of the Bryophyta*. [<http://www.eeb.uconn.edu/people/goffinet/Classificationmosses.html>]

Stone, I.G. (1996), A revision of Ephemeraceae in Australia, *J. Bryol.* 19: 279–295.

Key to Genera

Capsule cleistocarpous; plants dioicous or rhizautoicous..... **EPHEMERUM**
Capsule with a line of dehiscence; plants synoicous or paroicous **NANOMITRIOPSIS**

Cite as: I.G.Stone, *Australian Mosses Online*. 41. Ephemeraceae.

http://www.anbg.gov.au/abrs/Mosses_online/Ephemeraceae.pdf (2012)