

**Fissidens ceylonensis** Dozy & Molk., *Ann. Sci. Nat., Bot.*, sér. 3, 2: 304 (1844)

Type: Ceylon [Sri Lanka], *Koenig*; holo: L, *vide* Z.Iwatsuki & M.A.Haji Mohamed, *J. Hattori Bot. Lab.* 62: 395 (1987).

*Fissidens subhumilis* Catches., *Mosses of South Australia* 80 (1980). Type: George Ck, 10 miles [c. 16 km] S of Adelaide River, N.T., *M.Lazarides & L.Adams* 256; holo: CANB.

Illustrations: D.G.Catcheside, *Mosses of South Australia* 79, fig. 19 (1980), as *F. subhumilis*; Z.-H.Li, *Acta Bot. Fennica* 129: 28, fig. 12i–u (1985); Z.Iwatsuki & M.A.Haji Mohamed, *op. cit.* 346, fig. 2 (1987); A.Eddy, *Handbook of Malesian Mosses* 1: 82, fig. 75 (1988).

**Plants** small, pale to dark green or reddish brown, growing in dense tufts on soil. **Stems** simple, rarely branched, to 10 mm tall and 1.5 mm wide with leaves; hyaline nodules not differentiated; in section with a weakly differentiated central strand; rhizoids basal. **Leaves** in numerous pairs, mostly uniform, oblong-lingulate, to 1 mm long and 0.3 mm wide, widest below the middle; **apex** obtuse to acute; **vaginant laminae** 2/3–3/4 leaf length,  $\pm$ closed; **limbidium** of narrow thick-walled cells, usually reaching the apex, often intramarginal by 1 or 2 rows of laminal cells proximally, in sterile shoots marginal distally, usually intramarginal proximally, occasionally absent or intermittent; **dorsal lamina** tapered or broad at the base, sometimes ending above the insertion; **margins** crenulate above. **Lamina cells** quadrate to hexagonal, 5–6 (–10)  $\mu$ m wide, convex; **papillae** mostly peripheral. **Costa** of *bryoides*-type, percurrent to short-excurrent.

**Autoicous. Perigonia** usually axillary, occasionally terminal on a short basal shoot, 0.2–0.6 mm long,  $\pm$ pigmented. **Perichaetia** terminal on a stem or lateral branch. **Perichaetial leaves** with vaginant laminae broader at the base, joining above mid-leaf, open. **Setae** 2–3 mm long, smooth. **Capsules** cylindrical, oblong, c. 1 mm long; urn 0.5–0.7 mm long; **exothecial cells** quadrate, thin-walled, with thickened corners. **Operculum** long-rostrate, c. 0.45 mm long. **Peristome** 40–45  $\mu$ m wide at the base. **Calyptra** campanulate, c. 0.5 mm long, smooth, covering the operculum. **Spores** (8–) 10–12 (–16)  $\mu$ m diam., very finely papillose.

[Images](#)

Common in northern W.A., N.T., far north-eastern Qld; grows on lateritic soil, occasionally on termite mounds in monsoonal forest or woodland at low elevations.

Also in Greece, the Seychelles, Sri Lanka, India, SE Asia, China, Malesia, the Philippines, Fiji, Samoa and the Society Islands.

*Selected specimens examined:* N.T.: Twin Falls, Jim Jim Falls area, Kakadu Natl Park, *J.Russell-Smith* 1222 (DNA, MEL); Nourlangi, Kakadu Natl Park, *I.G.Stone* 23380 (MEL). Qld: on creek bank S of Claudie R., Iron Ra., 21 Sept. 1979, *M.Thorsborne (I.G.Stone 17611)* (MEL).

The species exhibits considerable variation in the size of plants, and while it has often been mistaken for *F. intromarginatulus*, the two species differ in habitat, leaf shape and costal features. It can also be confused with *F. hollianus* which has dark, multipapillose, laminal cells and slightly scabrous setae.

[Bibliography](#)