Fissidens victorialis Mitt., *Trans. & Proc. Roy. Soc. Victoria* 19: 92 (1882)

Type: Victoria R., N.T., 1855–56, *F.Mueller*; holo: NY; iso: MEL.

Plants simple or branched; sterile shoots with numerous pairs of leaves, fertile plants shorter and with up to 8 pairs of leaves. **Sterile stems** 5–8 mm long, **fertile stems** 2–3 mm long; in section with a small central strand of thin-walled cells surrounded by 3 or 4 layers of thick-walled cells, the outer layer smaller; rhizoids basal or axillary in lower leaves. **Leaves** of sterile plants in many pairs, ±uniform, oblong-lanceolate, 0.6–1.0 mm long, 0.27–0.30 mm wide, elimbate**; apex** obtuse to acute or obtuse-apiculate; **margins** ±entire, rarely partly bistratose **vaginant laminae** reaching to mid-leaf or just beyond, unequal, half-closed, joining between margin and costa; **dorsal lamina** rounded or tapered to the base, occasionally ending above the insertion; **laminal cells** ±hexagonal, 8.0–12.5 µm wide, becoming slightly longer proximally in vaginant laminae, ±thin-walled, with or without a hyaline spot; **costa** of *bryoides*-type, percurrent or just subpercurrent, failing 2–5 cells below the leaf apex.

Dioicous. **Male plants** short, c. 2 mm long; **perigonia** terminal. **Female plants** 2–3 mm long, with leaves up to 8 pairs, abruptly increasing in size upwards; vaginant laminae reaching beyond mid-leaf, ventricose, often undulate and overlapping; basal laminal cells elongate; **perichaetial leaves** to 1.4 mm long. **Setae** to 2 cm long. **Capsules** with **exothecial cells** ±evenly thickened. **Spores** c. 17.5 µm diam.

Images

Endemic to northern W.A., and N.T.; common in large colonies on vertical seepage areas on cliffs with seasonal rain, usually in monsoon vine forest in protected areas.

Selected specimens examined: W.A.: Marigui Promontory, Prince Regent River Reserve, West Kimberley, *K.F.Kenneally 2172* (MELU, PERTH). N.T.: Jim Jim Falls, Kakadu Natl Park, *J.Russell-Smith 1238* (DNA, MELU); Katherine Gorge Natl Park, *I.G.Stone 23302* (MELU).

Fissidens victorialis differs from *F. holstii* Broth. in having a shorter costa with a different internal structure, as well as the absence of elongate intramarginal cells in the vaginant laminae.

Bibliography