

Fissidens maceratus Mitt., *Trans. & Proc. Roy. Soc. Victoria* 19: 91 (1882)

T: Brisbane River, Qld, *F.M.Bailey*; holo: NY.

Fissidens splachnobryoides Broth., in K.M.Schumann & C.A.G.Lauterbach, *Fl. Schutzgeb. Südsee* 81 (1900).
T: Butaueng, New Guinea, *Kaernbach*; holo: H-BR.

Illustrations: H.C.Gangulee, *Mosses E. India* 463, fig. 211 (1971), as *F. splachnobryoides*; Z.Iwatsuki & T.Suzuki, *J. Hattori Bot. Lab.* 51: 451, pl.5 (1982), as *F. splachnobryoides*; I.G.Stone, *J. Bryol.* 15: 117, fig. 1; 118, fig. 2 (1988).

Dioicous. Plants pale green, small, 1–9 mm tall, 1.5–3.0 mm wide. Stems with a small central strand; axillary nodules weak. Leaves 4–10-jugate, lingulate-lanceolate, broadest in the apical lamina, 0.4–2.6 mm long, 0.1–0.6 mm wide; limbidium of very narrow substereid cells on all laminae, mostly bistratose, 2–5 cells wide, reaching or almost reaching the acute apex; costa thin, failing well below the apex. Vaginant laminae reaching mid-leaf, closed; margin entire, occasionally weakly sinuate; laminal cells thin-walled, smooth to mammillose, mostly 30–40 × 15–20 µm, smaller apically, longer basally. Propagula axillary green multicellular filaments.

Setae c. 4 mm long, terminal. Capsules rare, erect, 0.7–1.0 mm long. Spores 15–20 µm diam.

Occurs in the Kimberley region of northern W.A., in montane rainforest in north-eastern Qld, in drier country to the west, and in south-eastern Qld; grows on soil and crumbling limestone. Also in India, Sri Lanka, SE Asia, Indonesia, New Guinea, China and New Caledonia.

W.A.: Winjana Gorge, Kimberley, May 1988, *G.A.M.Scott* (MEL). Qld: Maidenhair Grotto, Hippie Tower, Chillagoe, *I.G.Stone* 21765 (MEL); Granite Gorge, Mareeba, *I.G.Stone* 15926 (MEL); Hippie Tower, Chillagoe, *M.Godwin* C2498 (AD, MEL); Balancing Rock, Chillagoe, *I.G.Stone* 16716 (MEL).

Pursell (1997) placed *F. maceratus* in the synonymy of *F. flaccidus* Mitt., along with *F. mollis* Mitt. and other names. I have seen the type of *F. mollis*, and I do not consider it to be conspecific with *F. maceratus*. Therefore, I prefer to retain *F. maceratus*, at least for the present.