

Fissidens oblatum I.G.Stone & Catches., *J. Bryol.* 17: 621 (1993)

T: Grassy Hill, Cooktown, Qld, *I.G.Stone 19196*; holo: MEL; iso: MELU.

Illustrations: I.G.Stone & D.G.Catcheside, *loc. cit.* figs 2, 3.

Autoicous. Stems pale green, to 5 mm long, comose, often homomallous. Rhizoids strong, ruby-red to reddish brown. Leaves multijugate, distant, minute and scale-like below, abruptly much larger above, erect, circinate-coiled when dry, deflexed and difficult to flatten when moist, \pm oblong, to 1 mm long and 0.2 mm wide; apex obtuse to acute; costa subpercurrent. Vaginant laminae c. two-thirds the leaf length, \pm half-closed, \pm open in perichaetial leaves; proximal cells usually thick-walled and oblate, to 13 μ m wide; limbidium 1–4 cells wide, failing below the apex. Dorsal lamina tapered to 1 row of cells; margin crenulate, sinuose where bordered; laminal cells convex-unipapillose or bipapillose, rounded-hexagonal to slightly oblate, c. 7–8 μ m long and 8–11 μ m wide.

Male plants short, axillary. Calyptra cucullate, c. 0.45 mm long. Setae 2–3 mm long. Capsules 0.35–0.50 mm long, 0.3–0.4 mm wide; exothecial cells collenchymatous; operculum c. 0.35 mm long, conical-rostrate. Spores 14–16 μ m diam.

Endemic to north-eastern Qld. Grows on accumulated humus, and on rock and road-banks in partial shade.

Qld: Quarantine Bay, near Cootown, *I.G.Stone 1922A* (MEL); Freshwater Ck, near Crystal Cascades, Cairns, *I.G.Stone 18853, 18855* (MEL); Mount Elizabeth Ck, near Irvinebank, W of Herberton, 19 Oct. 1940, *J.Devanney (Hb. Cairns 7016)* (AD, BM, CANB).

Readily recognised when dry by the glossy, submarginal strip of oblate cells and the cartilaginous border of the gaping vaginant laminae of larger leaves.