FISSIDENS SUBG. OCTODICERAS


_Octodiceras_ Brid., _Musc. Recent._ 1: 162 (1806).

Type: _O. fissidentoides_ Brid., nom. illeg.

Large soft aquatic plants with slender floating flaccid stems that lack a central strand. Leaves distantly set, long, narrow, with a unistratose costate lamina. Perigonia and perichaetia on short axillary branches. Sporophytes ±immersed, on short setae. Capsules lacking stomata. Peristome variously developed.

Pursell (1987) revised the subgenus, retaining six species. He recognised Iwatsuki’s (1985) subgenus _Sarawakia_ for _F. beccarii_ (Hampe) Broth., and he reserved treatment of a less strongly related group of South American species for future study.

One species is known from Australia.

References


_Fissidens berteroi_ (Mont.) Müll.Hal., _Syn. Musc. Frond._ 1: 45 (1848), as _berterii_  

_Conomitrium berteroi_ Mont., _Ann. Sci. Nat., Bot._, sér. 2, 8: 250 (1837), as _berterii_.  

_T_: Guillota, Chile, 1829, _C.Bertero_; iso: BM, NY.  


_T_: banks of River Murray, Vic., _F.Mueller_; holotype: BM; iso: MEL.  

_[_Fissidens fontanus_ auct. non (Bach.Pyl.) Steud.: G.A.M.Scott & I.G.Stone, op. cit._ 655 (1976)]_  


_AUTOICOUS. Stems branching, to 12 cm long. Leaves linear, to c. 8.5 mm long and 0.9 mm wide, acute. Costa ending well below the apex. Vaginant laminae 2/5–1/2 the leaf length, almost closed, elimbate or weakly limbate proximally; dorsal lamina reaching the insertion or failing above. Laminal cells irregularly hexagonal, 13–24 × 11–15 μm, larger juxtacostally.

_Setae_ 0.9–1.4 mm long. Capsules symmetrical, ovate, 0.5–0.8 mm long; operculum short, conical-rostrate. Peristome variable, the forks unequal, spirally thickened and papillose, the lower forked part ±smooth to finely papillose; papillae often in vertical rows.

Occurs in S.A., Qld, N.S.W., Vic. and Tas.: usually in running water attached to rocks or tree roots and often forming large floating masses coated with diatoms. Also in Lord Howe Island, New Zealand and southern South America.

_S.A.:_ Edeowie Gorge, Wilpena Pound, Flinders Ra., _L.Haegi_ 2762 (AD).  


_N.S.W.:_ Williams Creek, Ballina, W.W.Watts (NSW).
Australian collections have often been misidentified as *F. fontanus* (Bach.Pyl.) Steud., a predominantly European and North American species that differs in having unequal vaginant laminae and being completely elimbate.