

FALLACIELLA

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Fallaciella H.A.Crum, *J. Hattori Bot. Lab.* 69: 320 (1991); from the Latin *fallax* (deceptive) and the suffix *-ella* (indicating diminutive), in reference to the “deceitful” nature of the plants.

Type: *F. gracilis* (Hook.f. & Wilson) H.A.Crum

Plants growing in rough mats or wefts. Primary stem creeping, monopodially and/or sympodially branched; secondary stems creeping or ascending, ascending stems often forming arching fronds, irregularly pinnately branched, with branches not in a single plane; secondary axes and branches terete-foliate to complanate-secund; central strand absent in all axes. Leaves spirally arranged, appressed to secund when dry, evenly erecto-patent to homomalous when moist, ovate to obovate, those of frond axes often slightly larger than those of branches, shallowly concave, smooth; apex rounded to broadly acute; margin serrulate throughout or entire below; costa double, reaching 25–50% of the leaf length. Laminal cells distinctly prorulate; alar cells quadrate to rectangular, firm-walled, not pitted, forming ±triangular patches, ascending along the margin.

Perichaetial leaves with reflexed apices. Capsules long-exserted, horizontal, ellipsoidal; operculum conical-apiculate to rostrate.

The monotypic *Fallaciella* occurs in southern South America, New Zealand and south-eastern Australia. It differs from *Camptochaete* mainly in (i) having much smaller plants; (ii) the absence of a central strand in all axes; (iii) prorulate laminal cells; and (iv) ±triangular alar patches with cells that ascend along the margin. Prorulate cell ends were considered a characteristic of the Lembophyllaceae by Tangney (1997), and laminal cells with slightly bulging ends are encountered in other genera of the Lembophyllaceae, but not as strongly as is usual in *Fallaciella*, and they would mostly not be considered prorulate.

References

Tangney, R.S. (1997), A generic revision of the Lembophyllaceae, *J. Hattori Bot. Lab.* 81: 123–153.

Tangney, R.S. & Fife, A.J. (2003), A review of *Fallaciella* (Bryopsida: Lembophyllaceae), including a new species from South Island, New Zealand, *J. Bryol.* 25: 121–128.

Fallaciella gracilis (Hook.f. & Wilson) H.A.Crum, *J. Hattori Bot. Lab.* 69: 320 (1991)

Isoetecium gracile Hook.f. & Wilson, in J.D.Hooker, *Fl. Nov.-Zel.* 2: 106 (1854); *Hypnum gracile* Hook.f. & Wilson, *London J. Bot.* 3: 553 (1844), *nom. illeg.* (later homonym). T: Otago, [South Island], New Zealand, *J. Buchanan*; holo: BM-Gourlie *n.v. fide* R.S.Tangney & A.J.Fife, *op. cit.* 124.

Camptochaete tasmanica Broth., in L.Rodway, *Pap. & Proc. Roy. Soc. Tasmania* 1913: 229 (1914). T: Western Tiers, Tas., *L.Rodway 19/1912*; iso: H-BR *n.v. fide* R.S.Tangney & A.J.Fife, *op. cit.* 124.

Illustrations: R.S.Tangney & A.J.Fife, *op. cit.* 123, fig. 1; W.R.Buck, D.H.Vitt & W.M.Malcolm, *Key to the Genera of Australian Mosses* 16 (2002).

Leaves ovate to obovate, 0.55–1.20 mm long, 0.25–0.65 mm wide. Mid-laminal cells short-linear to linear, 20–70 × 5–7 µm, slightly vermicular, prorulate at both ends, but more pronounced distally, not or shallowly pitted; cells at the leaf apex rhombic to vermicular-elliptical, 10–30 × 6–8 µm, not pitted, prorulate.

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Occurs in N.S.W. (south from the Northern Tablelands), A.C.T., Vic. and Tas., mostly along streams, but also in wet forest at 1550–1660 m (mostly at the higher altitudes); grows mainly on rocks or soil, rarely on the bases of trees and shrubs. Also in New Zealand, the Auckland Islands, Campbell Island and southern South America. Collections from N.S.W. are very scattered.

N.S.W.: Weeping Rocks, New England Natl Park, 72 km E of Armidale, *H.Streimann 52011* (CANB). A.C.T.: Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, 28 km SW of Canberra, *H.Streimann 15624* (CANB). Vic.: Mason Falls, Kinglake Natl Park, *A.W.Thies 1566D* (MEL); along track to Mt Buller, SE slope of Mt Stirling, *J.H.Willis s.n.* (MEL 38498). Tas.: Guide Falls, near Burnie, *H.P.Ramsay 91/64* (MEL).

Fallaciella gracilis can be confused with *Lembophyllum divulgum* with which it shares a relatively a small stature, a similar growth form and opaque colour when dry, and the serrulate leaf margin. The former can be recognised by the often complanate-secund frond axes and branches, the often slightly dimorphic frond axis and stem leaves that are also narrower than in *L. divulgum* and not concave, the triangular alar patches and the prorulate laminal cells.