LETOBRYUM

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Leptobryum (Schimp.) Wilson, Bryol. Brit. 219 (1855); from the Greek lepto (delicate or slender) and bryon (a moss), in reference to the delicate leaves of these mosses.


Type: L. pyriforme (Hedw.) Wilson

Synoicous, sometimes dioicus. Plants small, in dense tufts, radiculose at the base. Stems slender, unbranched. Rhizoids coloured, papillose. Upper leaves long, in comal tufts, crisped when dry, setaceous from a lanceolate base; margin entire or distantly denticulate above; leaf base sheathing. Lower leaves distant, small, lanceolate; costa single, broad, flat, percurrent or failing below apex. Gemmae sometimes present in leaf axils or as tubers on rhizoids.


This genus of two species is represented in Australia by the weedy and cosmopolitan L. pyriforme.

Reference


Leptobryum pyriforme (Hedw.) Wilson, Bryol. Brit. 219 (1855)


Usually synoicous. Plants soft, 1–3 cm tall. Rhizoids densely and finely papillose, brown to crimson or violet. Upper leaves lanceolate-subulate from a short sheathing base, 2–5 mm long, entire above, spreading and flexuose when moist or dry. Lower leaves rudimentary; costa percurrent; upper laminal cells short, especially at margins; mid-leaf cells linear, 80–90 x 8–9 µm, rhomboidal at base. Gemmae sometimes abundant, ovoid, multicellular, red-brown, in lower leaf axils or as tubers on underground rhizoids, pitted.

Setae 1–3 cm long, reddish. Capsules 1.7–2.5 mm long, ribbed when old and dry. Exostome teeth finely papillose on dorsal face; trabeculate on inner; endostome segments shorter than exostome teeth, perforated in midline; cilia as long as segments. Spores 12–18 µm, finely papillose. n = 22 (20 + 2m), fide H.P.Ramsay, Austral. J. Bot. 22: 312 (1974).

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Occurs in W.A., S.A., N.T. (?), Qld (?), N.S.W., A.C.T., Vic. and Tas. An annual, almost cosmopolitan species that is found on all continents except Antarctica; most common in temperate regions. This is a weed on pots in glasshouses; infrequent on damp earth, burnt soil or limestone.

N.S.W.: Yarrangobilly Caves, W.W.Watts 8734 (NSW).  
Vic.: Grampians Natl Park, A.C.Beauglehole 4182 (MEL).  
Tas.: near Parsons Bay, Tasman Penn., W.A.Weymouth 613 (AD, HO).

This moss is characterised by comal tufts of slender leaves with broad, clasping bases, coloured rhizoids and long setae with pyriform capsules. Apart from gemmae (bulbils and tubers), deciduous shoots can also disperse this species.