

## HYMENODON

Scott R. Gilmore<sup>1</sup>

*Hymenodon* Hook.f. & Wilson, *London J. Bot.* 3: 548 (1844); from the Greek *humen* (very thin) and *odon* (a tooth), probably in reference to the long, thin endostome processes.

Type: *H. pilifer* Hook.f. & Wilson

Diocious. Plants slightly to densely tufted, yellow-green to pale green. Stem simple. Rhizoids confined to basal part of stem, orange-brown, papillose. Propagula absent. Leaves well spaced on stem, unranked, spreading when dry, oblong; apex rounded to obtuse, with an abrupt hairpoint; margin crenulate; costa ending below the apex or excurrent (not in Australia); laminal cells small, isodiametric.

Perichaetia basal. Calyptra not seen. Capsules inclined, ovoid; operculum conical, umbonate, with the apex turned to one side; exothecal cells irregular. Peristome single; exostome lacking. Spores smooth, globose.

A genus of eight species; one in Australia.

### **Hymenodon pilifer** Hook.f. & Wilson, *London J. Bot.* 3: 548 (1844)

T: banks of Huon R., Van Diemen's Land [Tas.], *J.D.Hooker*; syn: BM *n.v.*; New Zealand, syn: BM? *n.v.*

Illustrations: G.O.K.Sainsbury, *Bull. Roy. Soc. New Zealand* 5: 291, pl. 43 (1955); G.A.M.Scott & I.G.Stone, *The Mosses of Southern Australia* 321, pl. 59 (1976).

Stems c. 10 mm long. Leaves unranked, but occasionally appearing 2-ranked, often curled to one side, oblong, 0.57–0.91 mm long (not including hairpoint), 0.23–0.34 mm wide, rounded at the base and apex; apex with a long hairpoint (c. 330–480 µm); margin plane, crenulate (occasionally entire below); costa strong, ending just below apex; laminal cells isodiametric, 5–10 µm wide, mammillose, incrassate.

Perichaetia in basal leaf tomentum; leaves lanceolate, c. 0.43 mm long and 0.23 mm wide; apex acuminate; margin plane, entire; costa distinct, ending below the apex; laminal cells elongate, irregular in shape, smooth, 20–72 × c. 10 µm. Setae 10–15 mm long, arising from basal tomentum. Capsules oblong; exothecal cells irregularly isodiametric, incrassate, 10–30 µm wide. Endostome of 16 long thin gradually tapering process c. 300 × 40 µm. Spores 12–16 µm diam.

This moss is most common on tree ferns in moist situations in N.S.W., Vic. and Tas.; also found throughout New Zealand. It has also been reported from Qld (I.G.Stone, *Austrobaileya* 1: 515, 1982), but I have not seen any specimens to confirm this.

N.S.W.: Feagons Ck, Budawang Natl Park, 18 km E of Braidwood, *H.Streimann* 37989 (CANB). Vic.: Binns Rd, 8 km WNW of Apollo Bay, *H.Streimann* 42700 (CANB). Tas.: D'Entrecasteau Channel, *L.Rodway* (CANB).

At first glance, *Hymenodon* is most likely to be mistaken for a *Rhizogonium* or *Leptotheca*, but microscopical examination readily distinguishes the costa ending below the long, hairpointed leaf apex. Male plants are said to be small and growing on the tomentum (Sainsbury, 1955; Scott & Stone, 1976).

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<sup>1</sup> 7494 Andrea Crescent, Lantzville, British Columbia, Canada V0R 2H0

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[http://www.anbg.gov.au/abrs/Mosses\\_Online/Rhizogoniaceae\\_Hymenodon.pdf](http://www.anbg.gov.au/abrs/Mosses_Online/Rhizogoniaceae_Hymenodon.pdf) (2012)