

FABRONIACEAE

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Fabroniaceae Schimp., *Coroll. Bryol. Europ.* 102 (1856).

Type: *Fabronia* Raddi.

Autoicous or dioecious. Small, often silvery-glossy plants. Stems thin, creeping, ±irregularly branched. Leaves erect to erect-spreading when dry, spreading wider when moist, ovate to linear-lanceolate, concave; apex obtuse to markedly acuminate; margin plane, entire, dentate, serrate or ciliate; costa single, usually weak, extending to mid-leaf. Laminal cells rhomboidal to elongate-hexagonal, with a large patch of subquadrate alar cells.

Perichaetial leaves similar to vegetative leaves but with poorer alar development. Calyptra cucullate. Seta elongate. Capsules erect, symmetrical, ovoid, oblong to slightly urceolate, ±wider at the mouth; exothecal cell walls undulate. Peristome single or double; exostome teeth paired; endostome segments reduced or absent. Spores spherical, papillose.

Whereas the circumscription of this family is rather poorly understood, it is probably best characterised by the weak costa that often ends in mid-leaf, a large patch of subquadrate alar cells, and wavy exothecal cell walls. Buck & Crum (1978) and Buck (1980, 1981) recognised eight genera, this number currently reduced to five (Goffinet *et al.*, 2011). Three genera are known from Australia, including six species, four of which are endemic.

References

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- Goffinet, B., Buck, W.R. & Shaw, A.J. (2011), *Classification of the Bryophyta*. <http://www.eeb.uconn.edu/people/goffinet/Classificationmosses.html> [accessed 28 Mar. 2011].

KEY TO GENERA

- 1 Costa extending into the leaf apex; peristome with an exostome and endostome**ANACAMPTODON**
- 1: Costa ending well below the leaf apex; peristome with only an exostome.....2
- 2 Costa weak or apparently absent at the leaf base **FABRONIA**
- 2: Costa strong at the leaf base**ISCHYRODON**

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