

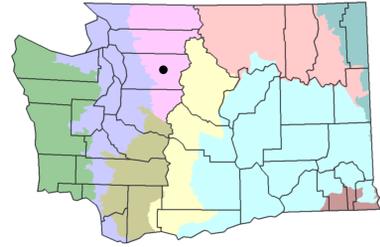
Bartramiopsis lescurii (James) Kindb.

false apple moss

Polytrichaceae

status: State Endangered, USFS sensitive

rank: G3G5 / S1



General Description: Adapted from Flora of North America (1993+) and Lawton (1971): Plants in loose to dense tufts or mats, dull olive green, becoming dark reddish brown to blackish with age. Stems usually simple, erect, up to 10 cm tall; lower stems long and wiry, lacking leaves but with tiny sheathing scales. Leaves loosely overlapping, spreading when moist, crisped and contorted when dry, 4-6 mm long, linear-lanceolate, from a sheathing base; margins serrate above. Shoulders between basal sheath and leaf blade have several marginal cilia up to 0.6 mm long. The costa ends at the leaf tip; the ventral surface of the costa has 4-5 (9) serrate lamellae, 4-8 (10) cells high. Middle and upper leaf mostly 2 cells thick, the margins sometimes 1 cell thick.

Reproductive Characteristics: Produces male and female sex organs on different plants. Seta thick, 7-12 mm long. Capsule yellowish brown, erect, 2.5-4 mm, widest at the mouth, with a unique membrane flaring above the mouth (visible after operculum is shed). Peristome teeth lacking.

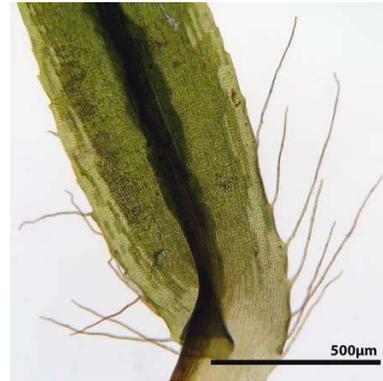
Identification Tips: Important vegetative characteristics include leaves that are crisped and contorted when dry and the conspicuously ciliate sheath shoulders.

Range: AK, WA, B.C., Russian Far East, and Japan.

Habitat/Ecology: On humus, soil over rock, cliffs, and in rock crevices; usually on rock substrates and vertical surfaces. Occurs in cool, humid canyons and stream terraces at low to moderate elevations.

Comments: This taxon is known from a single site in WA, representing the southern edge of its range.

References: Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 27; Lawton 1971; USDA Forest Service & USDI Bureau of Land Management 1996a.



© Judy Harpel (leaf detail)



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