

Discelium nudum (Dicks.) Brid.

Status: State Working List

Rank: G3G4S1

General Description: *Discelium nudum* is a very tiny, brownish-green, budlike plant that arises from a persistent protonemal mat. Leaves are few, 1.3 - 1.8 mm long, ovate to oblong-lanceolate, tapering to a narrow blunt apex, margins plane, entire or irregularly toothed at the apex, leaf cells are smooth, costa lacking or weak. Sporophytes are brown, with .6 - 1 mm ovoid, horizontal to cernuous urns, occurring on top of a smooth, 6 - 18 mm tall seta that is twisted when dry. The peristome teeth are lanceolate and reddish-brown or purplish.

Identification Tips: According to Schofield (pers. comm.), *Discelium nudum* is the only moss in this region that occurs on fine textured mineral soil where the leafy gametophyte is barely visible; the red brown seta and small sporangium make it very distinct.

Range: This species is rare and scattered in the Northern Hemisphere. In the Pacific Northwest, it is restricted to the coastal areas of British Columbia, northern California and Jefferson County, Washington.

Habitat: *Discelium nudum* occurs on silt banks along rivers and ditches. Its persistent protonemal mat and tiny reduced budlike plants that form extensive mats appear to be adaptations to the unstable silt bank environment.

State Status Comments: This species is considered rare throughout North America and at present is known from only two sites in Washington.

Inventory Needs: The historic site in Jefferson County, Washington needs to be relocated and surveyed to determine whether *D. nudum* is still present.

Threats and Management: This species occurs in a naturally unstable environment. Attempts to stabilize these environments (roadside ditches or river banks) could pose a threat to the persistence of this species. *Discelium nudum* is also threatened by competition with vascular plants invading its habitat and crowding it out.

References:

Crum, H.A., L.E. Anderson. 1981. *Mosses of Eastern North America*, 2 volumes, Columbia University Press. New York. 1328 pp.

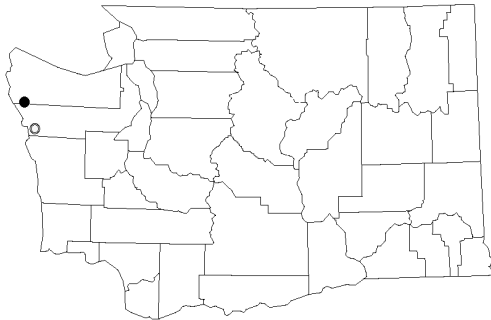
Lawton, E., 1971. *Mosses of the Pacific Northwest*. The Hattori Botanical Laboratory. Nichinan, Miyazaki, Japan. 362 pp.

Noguchi, A. 1988. *Illustrated Moss Flora of Japan*, Part 2. Hattori Botanical Laboratory. Nichinan, Miyazaki, Japan.

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Known distribution of *Discelium nudum* in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

2003 Produced as part of a cooperative project between the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Natural Heritage Program, and the U.S.D.A., Forest Service, Olympic National Forest. The author of these fact sheets is Judy Harpel, Region 6, USFS. Persons needing this information in an alternate format may call (360) 902-1340 or TTY (360) 902-1125.