



BRYOPHYTES of Australia

Funaria hygrometrica Hedw.

Author: Allan J. Fife & Rodney D. Seppelt

Cite this profile as: Allan J. Fife & Rodney D. Seppelt (2019) *Funaria hygrometrica*. In: Flora of Australia. Australian Biological Resources Study, Department of the Environment and Energy, Canberra.
<https://profiles.ala.org.au/opus/boa/profile/Funaria%20hygrometrica> [Date Accessed: 22 March 2019]

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Profile Updated: Fri Mar 22, 2019 1:08 PM +11:00

Version: 1

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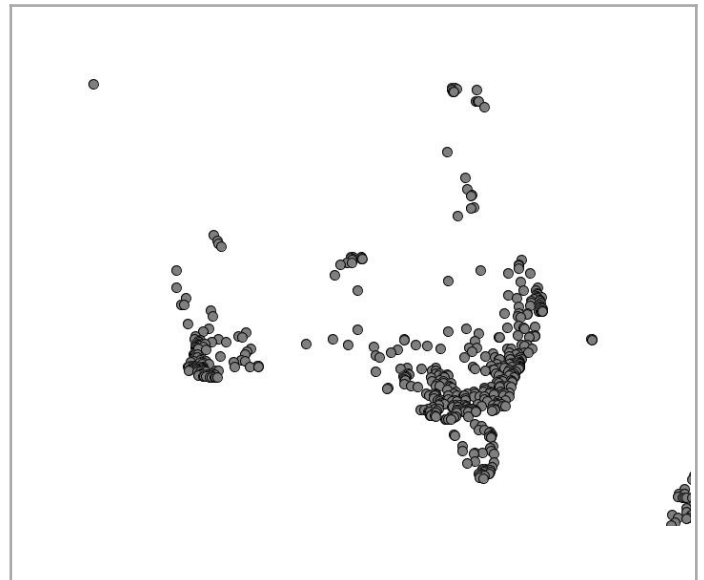
Funaria hygrometrica Hedw.

Allan J. Fife & Rodney D. Seppelt

Autoicous. Stems to 3 cm tall, branching from below. Leaves to 4 mm long and 1 mm wide, widest above the middle, spreading to erect-patent below; upper leaves imbricate, crowded, concave, with a short to long point; margins entire or bluntly toothed, crumpled and slow to wet when dry; costa ceasing below the apex to percurrent. Upper laminal cells lax, thin-walled, irregularly rectangular to quadrate-hexagonal, 30–50 µm wide in mid-leaf; 1 or 2 rows of marginal cells narrower; basal laminal cells rectangular.

Perigonia terminal, later overtopped by a female branch arising by innovation. Setae 15–40 mm long, arcuate when moist, flexuose, twisted when dry and old, strongly hygroscopic. Capsules c. 3 mm long and 1 mm wide, narrowly pyriform, gibbous, asymmetrical; mouth oblique, c. 0.8 mm wide, red-rimmed, striate when fresh, sulcate when dry and empty; operculum low, domed. Annulus large, revoluble. Peristome double and well-developed; exostome teeth orange, spirally curved, joined at the tips to an ephemeral central disc, papillose-striate below, with strong transverse bars projecting into the capsule cavity and protruding at the side of the teeth; endostome segments lanceolate, hyaline, papillose; processes similar to those of exostome. Spores yellow-brown, 12–20 µm, finely papillose but appearing smooth.

Distribution: Occurs in all States and Territories. Plants form patches or scattered stems on disturbed ground, especially the sites of fires, on burnt wood and old walls; very common in plant nurseries, on rubbish and apparently associated with high potash concentrations. Cosmopolitan.



Representative Herbarium Specimens: W.A.: Yalgarup Natl Park, *I.G.Stone* 6259.

N.T.: 10 km N of Alice Springs, *P.K.Latz* 6355.

Qld: Upper Mowbray River, *Sparvell* 5158.

N.S.W.: Gudgenby.

N.T.: *Burbidge* 6771.

Vic.: Warrandyte, *I.G.Stone* 535.

Nomenclature And Typification: ***Funaria hygrometrica*** Hedw., *Sp. Musc. Frond* 172 (1801). T: Germany; *n.v.*

Funaria calvescens Schwägr., *Sp. Musc. Frond. Suppl.* 1(2): 77 (1816); *Funaria hygrometrica* var. *calvescens* (Schwägr.) Mont., *Ann. Sci. Nat., Bot.*, sér. 2, 12: 54 (1839). T: Europe; *n.v.*

Funaria sphaerocarpa Müll.Hal., *Bot. Zeitung (Berlin)* 9: 546 (1851); *F. hygrometrica* var. *sphaerocarpa* (Müll.Hal.) Watts, *Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales* 30 (Suppl.): 117 (1906). T: Green Cape, Twofold Bay, N.S.W.,

S.Mossman 831 (cited as *Mossman* 834 in protologue); holo: NY.

Funaria papillata Hampe, *Linnaea* 40: 302 (1876). T: near Brisbane, Qld, *Slater*; BM-Hampe.

Taxonomic Notes: Plants with curved or even coiled setae and ripe, pendulous capsules are especially distinctive. *Funaria microstoma* has similar capsules, but the mouth is less than half the diameter of the capsule. *Funaria hygrometrica* var. *calvescens* differs only in having more erect setae, stems that are leafy above but becoming bare below and slightly narrower capsules. While some authors retain the var. *calvescens* as distinct, we consider that, pending further studies, there is insufficient basis for this separation.

Illustrations: D.G.Catcheside, *Mosses of South Australia* 229, fig. 128 (1980); D.Meagher & B.Fuhrer, *A Field Guide to the Mosses and Allied Plants of Southern Australia* 155 (2003); B.Malcolm, N.Malcolm, J.Shevock & D.Norris, *California Mosses* 48 (2009).

Conservation Status

QLD - Least concern

Images



Fig. 1: '*Funaria hygrometrica*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)



Fig. 2: '*Funaria hygrometrica*' by Fagg, M. (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)






Fig. 3: '*Funaria hygrometrica*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)





Fig. 4: '*Funaria hygrometrica*' by Fagg, M. (© Director of National Parks)




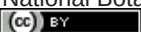
Fig. 5: '*Funaria hygrometrica*' by Fagg, M. (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)




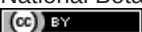
Fig. 6: '*Funaria hygrometrica*' by Fagg, M. (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)





Fig. 7: '*Funaria hygrometrica*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)




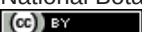
Fig. 8: '*Funaria hygrometrica*' by Fagg, M. (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)





Fig. 9: '*Funaria hygrometrica*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)




Fig. 10: '*Funaria hygrometrica*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)



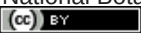

Fig. 11: '*Funaria hygrometrica*' by Fagg, M. (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)




Fig. 12: '*Funaria hygrometrica*' by Fagg, M. (© Fagg, M.)




Fig. 13: '*Funaria hygrometrica*' by Fagg, M. (© Australian National Botanic Gardens)
