



# BRYOPHYTES of Australia

## *Funaria microstoma* Bruch ex Schimp.

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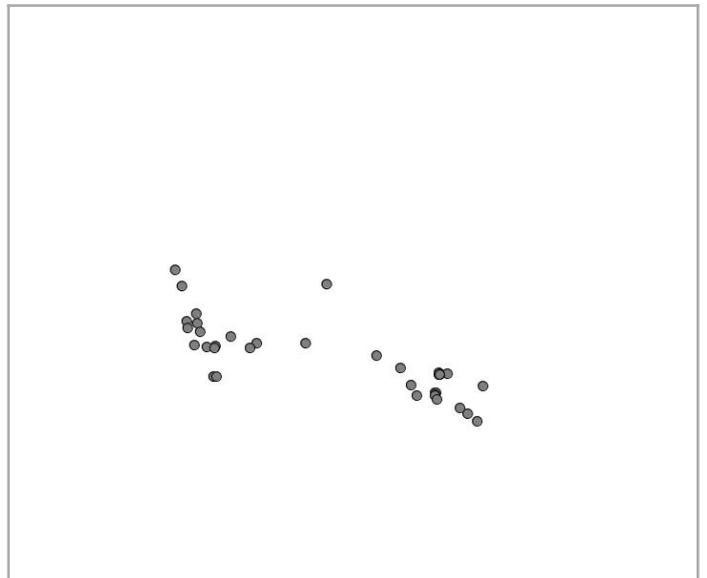
## ***Funaria microstoma* Bruch ex Schimp.**

Allan J. Fife & Rodney D. Seppelt

Autoicous. Plants similar to the preceding species. Leaves to c. 2.5 mm long and 1 mm wide, widest above the middle, spreading to erect-patent below; upper leaves crowded, concave, broadly oblong-ovate to obovate, with a long slender 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, 150–200 × 60–80 µm in mid-leaf; 1 or 2 rows of marginal cells narrower; basal laminal cells rectangular.

Perigonium terminal, later overtopped by a female branch arising by innovation. Setae to 10 mm long. Capsules c. 1.5–2.0 mm long and 0.8–1.0 mm wide, narrowly pyriform, gibbous, asymmetrical; mouth oblique, c. 0.4 mm wide, red-rimmed, striate when fresh, less strongly sulcate than the preceding species when dry and empty; operculum low, domed. Peristome double; exostome teeth orange, spirally curved, joined at the tips to an ephemeral central disc, papillose-striate below, with much less pronounced transverse bars; endostome segments rudimentary, low and membranous or undetectable. Spores yellow-brown, 23–30 µm, rather sparsely ornamented with low rounded papillae.

*Distribution:* Occurs in W.A., S.A. and Vic.; apparently halotolerant and found both in seaside marshes and beside inland salt lakes. Also in Europe, NE Asia, North Africa, U.S.A. (California) and Canada (Newfoundland).



*Representative Herbarium Specimens:* W.A.: Poonthoon Pool, Whelia Ck, Mileura Stn.

N.T.: *Burbidge & A.Kanis 8137.*

S.A.: Meningie, *L.D.Williams 1010.*

**Nomenclature And Typification:** *Funaria microstoma* Bruch ex Schimp., *Flora* 23: 850 (1840). T: Switzerland; *n.v.* *Funaria salsicola* Müll.Hal., *Hedwigia* 41: 120 (1902). T: Dimboola, Vic., 26 July 1896, *F.M.Reader*; CHR-Beckett, MEL, NSW.

**Taxonomic Notes:** *Funaria microstoma* is morphologically close to *F. hygrometrica*, and the two species are almost indistinguishable in the absence of sporophytes.

**Illustrations:** D.G.Catcheside, *Mosses of South Australia* 230, fig. 129 (1980), as *F. salsicola*.

