



# BRYOPHYTES of Australia

## *Gemmabryum austrosabulosum* J.R.Spence &

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## ***Gemmabryum austrosabulosum* J.R.Spence & H.P.Ramsay**

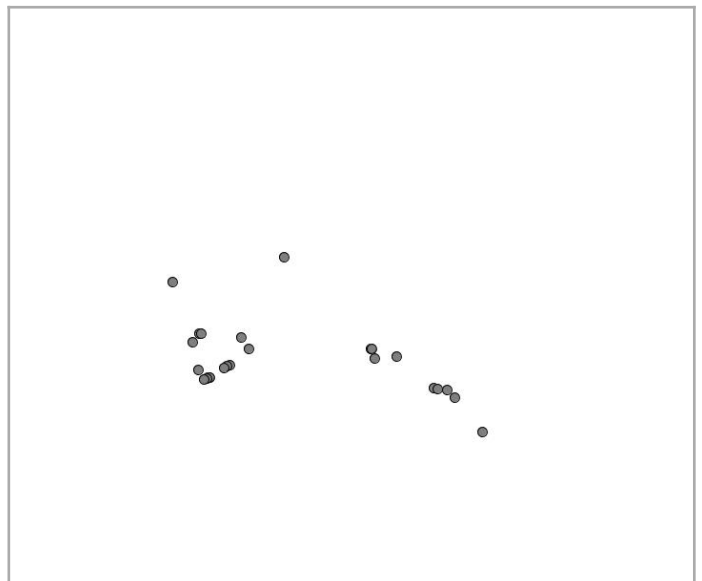
- Spence, J.R. & Ramsay, H.P. (2005), *Phytologia* 87 : 65

John R. Spence & Helen P. Ramsay

Dioicous. Plants minute, 4–5 mm tall, brown or golden-green, often solitary among other mosses. Rhizoids brown. Leaves broadly ovate, tightly imbricate, 0.5–1.2 mm long, golden-brown, concave, acute, not cucullate; margin revolute almost to apex, entire, not bordered; costa short-excurrent, golden-brown; upper laminal cells hexagonal, 30–40 × 8–12 μm (3–4: 1), thick-walled; basal cells quadrate. Gemmae absent.

Perichaetia on short basal shoots; perichaetial leaves somewhat larger than vegetative leaves. Setae long-exserted, 10–15 mm long, red, smooth. Capsules pendulous, small, 1.0–1.5 mm long, ovate, with a thick apophysis; neck smooth or somewhat corrugate when dry, abruptly contracting to the seta; operculum dome-shaped, short-apiculate. Peristome well developed; exostome teeth lanceolate, yellow-brown, smooth to papillose below; endostome segments c. 50–67% the length of the exostome, broadly perforated, with a high basal membrane; cilia 2, nodose. Spores 8–15 μm.

*Distribution:* Endemic to Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria.



*Diagnostic Features:* This moss has probably been overlooked in the past because of its small size and a tendency to grow as scattered individuals in turfs of other species. Its most distinctive features are the golden-brown, tightly imbricate leaves and the small ovate capsule with a thick, almost smooth apophysis that is somewhat corrugated when dry. When sterile, *G. austrosabulosum* can only be separated from *G. exile* by the latter's production of bulbils and rhizoidal tubers, and its somewhat folded leaves when dry.

*Biostatus:* Native.

*Habitat:* In Western Australia it occurs most commonly on dry rock outcrops or in dry soil pockets on exposed rocks; elsewhere it is found in a range of habitats including sand dunes.

*Representative Herbarium Specimens:* W.A.: Yanchep Park, *G.G.Smith* 285 (MEL); Petrunder Rocks, *J.R.Spence* 4152 (NSW).

S.A.: Eyre Hwy, 18 km NW of Kyancutta, *A.C.Beauglehole* 14960 (MEL).

Vic.: near Nigretta Falls, Wannon River, near Hamilton, *D.G.Catcheside* 77.148 (AD); Leigh Creek Gorge, 29 Oct. 1978, *I.G.Stone* (MEL).

*Nomenclature And Typification:* *Gemmabryum austrosabulosum* (Catches. ex J.R.Spence & H.P.Ramsay) J.R.Spence & H.P.Ramsay, *Phytologia* 87: 65 (2005). *Bryum sabulosum* Catches. ex J.R.Spence & H.P.Ramsay, *J. Adelaide Bot. Gard.* 17: 114 (1996), *nom. illeg.* (later homonym). Type: Porongorups, W.A., Oct. 1867, *F.Mueller*; holotype: MEL.

*Illustrations:* D.G.Catcheside, *Mosses of South Australia* 268, fig. 157 (1980), as *Bryum* sp.; J.R.Spence & H.P.Ramsay, *op. cit.* 115, fig. 4 (1996), as *Bryum sabulosum*.

*Source:* J.R.Spence & H.P.Ramsay (2012), *Australian Mosses Online* 50. *Bryaceae*. Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra. Version 21 June 2012.

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## Nomenclature

Spence, J.R. & Ramsay, H.P. in McCarthy, P.M. (ed.) (2006), *Bryaceae*. *Flora of Australia* 51 : 294, Fig. 41Q-V, Map 163

nomenclatural synonym: *Bryum sabulosum* Catches. ex J.R.Spence & H.P.Ramsay: 294

