

Plant profile: *Calypogeia sphagnicola* (Arn & Perss.) Warnst. & Loeske.

By John Steel

Order: Jungermanniales
Family: Calypogeiaceae

Next time you are wandering across a *Sphagnum* bog – okay, okay, maybe it’s not something you do every day – so if you ever find yourself wandering across a *Sphagnum* bog, go down on your knees and have a close look among the *Sphagnum* crowns and if you are very lucky you may just find clumps of fine leafy strands mixed in amongst them. Take out your ever-present eyeglass, have a closer look and it may just be this little gem. Its name comes from the Greek, *kalyx* = flower cup + *hypo* = under + *ge* = earth, (referring to the perigynium or underground pocket in which the sporophyte matures) and *sphagnos* + moss and the Latin, *cola* = dwelling.

Up to two centimetres long and sometimes reaching the considerable width of two millimetres, it’s not something that will leap out at you. If you do find it, contain your excitement and give yourself a pat on the back. I have chosen this pretty, little hepatic to highlight Rudi Schuster’s work (Schuster 2000; see book review this issue) and also because it was described from specimens found on Swampy Summit here in Dunedin. Its distribution is not well documented so any reports of further finds would be welcome.

Reference: Schuster, R.M. (2000). Austral Hepaticae part I. *Beiheft zur Nova Hedwigia* 118:1-524.

BOOKS

Book reviews – by John Steel

Schuster, R.M. (2000). Austral Hepaticae part I. *Beiheft zur Nova Hedwigia* 118:1-524.

P/back. J. Cramer, Stuttgart. \$US150 + \$US10 p&p.

Rudi Schuster is one of the world’s few, leading authorities on liverworts and has a prodigious publication record. He has long been a respected authority on New Zealand liverworts and this book is a most welcome and necessary addition to our knowledge. The taxonomy of the hepatic flora of New Zealand has a long way to go and much of the published information is difficult to access, often appearing in journals not available here, so having it all in one place is a pleasing advance on the current state of affairs.