

*Fissidens hydropogon* Spruce ex Mitten

Status: **Critically Endangered (CR)** B1,2c

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Class: Bryopsida (Musci)

Order: Fissidentales

Family: Fissidentaceae

**Description and Biology:** *Fissidens hydropogon* is a much-branched, robust, aquatic species with a *Phyllogonium*-like general aspect. It grows in dense mats of which the older parts are brown-black and denuded of leaves through erosion. The leaves are lanceolate with vaginant laminae about 4/5 the leaf length. A limbidium of unistratose cells occupies the lower parts of the vaginant laminae of the perichaetial and subtending leaves. Costae end 2-6 cells below the leaf apices. Laminal cells are irregularly bistratose. Bud-like perigonal branches are axillary. Sporophytes are numerous and immersed to emergent with very short setae and radially symmetric capsules. Calyptrae are mitrate.

**Distribution and Habitat:** *Fissidens hydropogon* is known only from the type locality in Ecuador at 1500 feet (450 m) in the Bombonasa River in Pichincha Province. It was growing submerged in floating water.

**History and Outlook:** Two collections of *F. hydropogon* were made by Richard Spruce in the latter half of the 19th Century (between the years 1849 and 1860). Populations of the species have not been found since that time. However, the forest in the area has been disturbed.

**References:**

Mitten, W. 1869. Musci austro-americani. J. Linn. Soc. Bot. 12: 1-659.

Pursell, R.A., M.A. Bruggeman-Nannenga & B.H. Allen. 1988. A taxonomic revision of *Fissidens* subgenus *Sarawakia* (Bryopsida: Fissidentaceae). Bryologist 91: 202-213.

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