

Cryptogam of the month - May 2008



Marchantia berteroana

A common species of liverwort found in damp situations on disturbed soils, wet urban gardens nursery propagation areas and flower pots. When growing in profusion in a flower pot the dense coverage of this species can lead to the pot drying out. In the garden situation this species tends to dry up and cause no problems.

A common southern hemisphere liverwort species usually growing on bare soil associated with stream banks.

This species is recognised by the abundant erect cup like structures with toothed edges (gemmae cups), on the upper surface of the thallus. The gemmae are round spore like structures within the cups, it is from these gemmae that new liverwort offspring develop. The male structure (sporophyte) is rare and erect, topped with a Jelly fish like umbrella structures.



Gemmae cup



Sporophyte