

PSEUDOSYMBLEPHARIS

*Helen M. Jolley*¹ & *Josephine Milne*²

Pseudosymblespharis Broth., in H.G.A.Engler & K.A.E.Prantl, *Nat. Pflanzenfam.*, 2nd edn, 10: 261 (1924); named for its resemblance to the genus *Symblespharis* (Dicranaceae).

Lecto: *P. papillosula* (Cardot & Thér.) Broth.

Dioicous. Plants large, growing in clumps or tufts, green above, brownish below. Stems branching, 2–6 cm tall. Leaves lanceolate to more linear, with a broad sheathing base, contorted when dry, spreading when moist; apex subulate. Basal laminal cells rather large, hyaline, often extending above the leaf shoulders at the margin; costa percurrent to short-excurrent. Laminal KOH colour reaction yellow.

Seta elongate. Capsules cylindrical; calyptra cucullate.

Pseudosymblespharis, a genus of c. 11 species, occurs in most tropical, subtropical and warm-temperate regions; one species is known from eastern Australia.

References

- Sollman, P. (1994), New and noteworthy records and new synonyms in pottiaceous mosses, mostly from SE Asia, *Tropical Bryol.* 9: 75–78.
- Sollman, P. (2000), A taxonomic revision of *Pseudosymblespharis* Broth. (Musci: Pottiaceae) in Asia, *Tropical Bryol.* 18: 129–145.
- Sollman, P. (2001), A new combination in *Chionoloma* Dix. (Musci, Pottiaceae), *Tropical Bryol.* 20: 139.
- Sollman, P. (2002), Studies on some Australian pottiaceous mosses, *Tropical Bryol.* 22: 49–53.
- Sollman, P. & Een, G. (1996), Mosses from the Mascarenes – 5, *Tropical Bryol.* 12: 1–4.
- Zander, R.H. (1993), Genera of the Pottiaceae: mosses of harsh environments, *Bull. Buffalo Soc. Nat. Sci.* 32: 1–378.

Pseudosymblespharis bombayensis (Müll.Hal.) P.Sollman, in P.Sollman & G.Een, *Tropical Bryol.* 12: 2 (1996)

Trichostomum bombayense Müll.Hal., *Syn. Musc. Frond.* 2: 628 (1851). T: Bombay [Mumbai], India, hb. Kegel no. 10.025; lecto: H n.v., *vide* P.Sollman & G.Een, *loc. cit.*

Tortula angustata Mitt., *J. Proc. Linn. Soc., Bot.* 1 (Suppl.): 28 (1859); *Pseudosymblespharis angustata* (Mitt.) Hilp., *Beih. Bot. Centralbl.* 50(2): 670 (1933). T: Ceylon [Sri Lanka], *G.Gardner 134*; iso: BM n.v.

Illustrations: R.H.Zander, *op. cit.* 32, pl. 7; 78, figs 8, 9.

Plants with sparse rhizoids. Leaves incurved, spiralled when dry, spreading to squarrose when moist, 1–7 mm long, ovate to rectangular, with ‘shoulders’; base strongly sheathing; apex subulate, often fragile and broken; costa percurrent to short-excurrent as a sharp mucro; margins plane, entire or weakly dentate at the apex. Upper laminal cells subquadrate to short-rectangular, papillose.

Perigonia and perichaetia terminal. Seta 7–20 mm long. Capsules cylindrical, reddish brown; annulus present. Peristome teeth short, papillose; basal membrane present. Operculum

¹ Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, Vic. 3141, Australia

² Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, Vic. 3141, Australia

rostrate; calyptra cucullate. Spores 11–15 μm diam., yellow-brown, papillose. [Australian specimens sterile.]

Rare on soil and rock in eastern Qld and N.S.W.; also in the Arabian Peninsula, India, Sri Lanka, SE Asia, Malesia, China and Japan.

Qld: Atherton, *B.O. van Zanten 681284* (CANB). N.S.W.: Williams R., Barrington Tops Natl Park, *H.Streimann 60427* (CANB); Weeping Rocks, New England Natl Park, *H.Streimann 47702* (CANB).

Sollman (2001) transferred *P. bombayensis* to *Chionoloma* based on an examination of material from Asia. However, the handful of known Australian specimens have sheathing leaf bases that are oblong and shouldered, indicating *Pseudosymblepharis*, rather than ovate to elliptical, as in *Chionoloma*. Consequently, and based on the characters emphasised by Zander (1993), Australian material is retained in *Pseudosymblepharis*.