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Cryptogam of the Month-September 2008



Metzgeria furcata

Metzgeria furcata was formally known as *Metzgeria decipiens* and was considered as a rare liverwort species for Western Australia. The name change to a widely distributed Australian species was based on the identification characters of the two mentioned species being similar and is now considered not to warrant separation. *Metzgeria furcata* was the earlier described species, in 1835, and as such took precedence over *Metzgeria decipiens* (1890). This species can be found growing mainly on old mature bark of *Trymalium floribundum* (Soap Bush) shrubs and occasionally on other shrubs in wet forest areas. The sensitivity of this *Trymalium* species to fire and competition for establishment as a host plant has led this liverwort to be placed into a threatened ecological community classification and requires protection.