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Cryptogam of the Month – January 2010



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Asterella drummondii

Asterella drummondii a thallose liverwort that occurs on soil crusts or organic material in both wet and dry habitats. The thallus is usually a single tongue-like shape but may also appear as a star shaped rosette with a distinctive red/black margin, this can make this species easily located. When dry the thallus rolls up exposing dark wavy margins. Fruiting bodies (pseudoperianths) are erect on dark stalks (archegoniophore) that form on the surface of the thallus. These fruiting bodies hang downwards and are adorned with a white frill on the lower edge that may be joined at the tip.

This liverwort can be found in all states of Australia in semi arid areas.



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