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Cryptogam of the month-June 2008



***Grimmia laevigata* (Pepper-and-Salt)**

Grimmia laevigata is an unusual moss species found on rock outcrops, especially on exposed granite. This species is widespread in Australia extending into very arid areas where it forms large irregular, grey mats on the rock surface or sheltering in crevices. This group of moss is classified as cushion type life form. The development of a dense cushion ensures species survival in exposed habitats by acting as moisture and dust traps and provides protection for the individual strands

The common name is derived from the combination of ash grey leaves and long white hairpoints especially when dry.

R.J. Cranfield Science Division DEC Manjimup