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Cryptogam of the Month-February 2011



Bryum lanatum

Bryum lanatum is an attractive small silvery white tufted moss growing dry soil in semi arid areas. This species is fairly widespread in Australia but either overlooked or confused with *Bryum argentum* and *Gigaspermum repens*. The presence of a long costa (mid rib or thick leaf nerve) that extends the whole length and beyond the leaf separates this species. Fruiting capsules which appear on long stalks are rare but when present further separate the two genera mentioned. This species is located in all states except Tasmania but is more common in tropical and subtropical areas.

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