

*Encalypta alpina*

Alpine Extinguisher-moss

**Identification**

A pale green moss, with opaque, very matt leaves gradually tapering into a shortish, usually colourless hair point. Shoots are about 2–4 cm tall, with leaves 3 mm long. Capsules are usually present, smooth, lack a peristome, and until maturity are entirely covered by a very large calyptra. They are borne on a red seta.

**Similar species**

The very large calyptra over the capsule confirms this as a species of *Encalypta*. It differs from other species of *Encalypta* (pp. 555–557, 559) by its gradually tapering leaves, from *E. raptocarpa* (p. 555) and *E. streptocarpa* (p. 557) by its smooth ripe capsules, and from *E. ciliata* (p. 559) by the base of its calyptra lacking a fringe.

**Habitat**

Base-rich rock crevices at medium to high altitudes, often associated with other rare and scarce, montane species.