Grimmia nevadensis H.C. Greven – The Bryologist


Distribution: Am.1

Description
Grimmia nevadensis grows in dense, sand-filled, blackish-green cushions, but also in rounded patches, the leaves are appressed when dry, erecto-patent when moist, concave, ovate-lanceolate, gradually narrowed to the hair-points, the perichaetial leaves are homomallous, with conspicuous white and long hair-points, the costa is weak and slightly projecting at dorsal side, the hair-points short in male plants, longer in female plants, denticulate and slightly decurrent, the margins plane, flat to incurved above. The distal areolation is bistratose, the mid-leaf cells are irregularly quadrate to rounded with firm walls, the basal marginal cells are short-rectangular with thickened transverse walls, the basal juxtacostal cells are short-rectangular with thin, smooth walls. Sexuality dioicous, seta is straight, capsules are usually present, they are emergent, chestnut brown, smooth, ovate with distinct constriction below rim, exothecial cells rectangular, thick-walled, stomata absent, annulus of 1 row of quadrate, thick-walled cells, peristome teeth absent but frequently rudimentary teeth composed of only a few basal cells present, operculum conical-obtuse, calytra cucullate.

Discussion
Grimmia nevadensis, endemic to California, is rather common on eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada. It attracts attention by a growth-form in dense, blackish, hoary cushions, the perichaetial leaves with conspicuous white, homomallous hair-points. The cushions are usually richly provided with emergent gymnosto-mous capsules. The species is related to Grimmia mariniana. Both species share emergent capsules on blackish green cushions. However, G. nevadensis grows in dense sand-filled cushions, and capsule-bearing plants have perichaetial leaves with rather long homomallous hair-points. G. mariniana grows in more loose cushions with rather short, non homomallous hair-points. In G. nevadensis, the capsule mouth is not especially widened when empty, and the urn is hardly narrowed in the basal part. In G. mariniana, the urn has a wide mouth when empty, and is clearly narrowed in the basal part. G. nevadensis has ovate-lanceolate leaves with a weakly defined
costa and rather uniform chlorophyllose basal cells with thin longitudinal walls, *G. mariniana* has somewhat longer oblong-lanceolate leaves with a stout terete costa, and pellucid basal cells with incrassate longitudinal walls.

**Specimens examined**

**References:**