

Amandinea punctata

COMMON NAME

Black button lichen

SYNONYMS

Verrucaria punctata Hoffm., Dtsch., *Buellia punctata* (Hoffm.) A.Massal.

FAMILY

Caliciaceae

AUTHORITY

Amandinea punctata (Hoffm.) Coppins & Scheid.

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Crustose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit (it also occurs on coastal rocks); the warty, olive-grey to silver-grey thallus; small, frequent, scattered, plane to convex, matt, black apothecia (often in concentric circles when well-developed); and olive-brown to dark-brown, ascospores (12–)17–20.5(–22) × 7–8.5(–10) μm, with a finely warted wall.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Whangarei, Great Barrier Island) to Wellington (Lower Hutt, Titahi Bay). **South Island:** Marlborough (North East of Kaikoura), Canterbury (Christchurch, Okains Bay) to Southland (Invercargill).

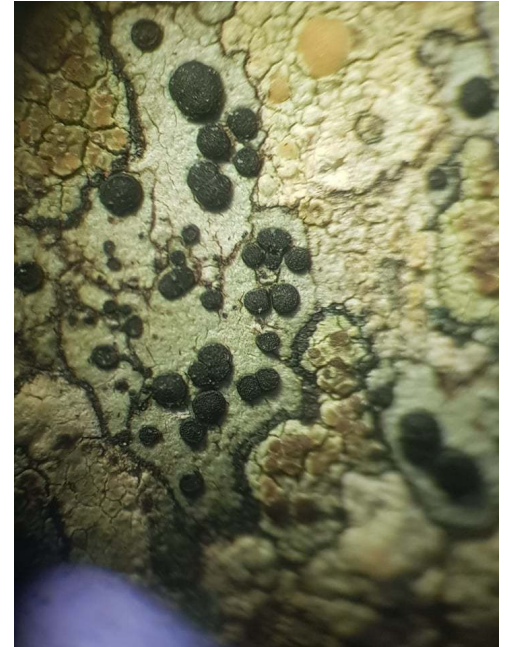
Known also from Great Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, North America, Brazil, Australia, South Georgia, South Sandwich Island, South Orkney Island, Antarctic Peninsula and continental Antarctica.

HABITAT

On trees and shrubs – common on *Metrosideros excelsa* in polluted sites (especially alongside motorways) in the north; elsewhere on introduced trees (**Fraxinus*, **Platanus* etc.) in towns and cities where it can withstand moderate to high levels of atmospheric pollution; also on coastal rocks.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus thin and continuous, often becoming cracked or restricted to a few minute lumps and warts, often lacking, pale silvery grey to dark grey or olivaceous, determinate or partly indeterminate, rarely with a delimiting black, marginal prothallus, corticolous or lignicolous. **Apothecia** small, 0.05–0.25 mm diam., black or brown-black, matt, marginate and sessile becoming convex and immarginate. **Epithecium** dark brown. **Hypothecium** pale to dark brown. **Ascospores** ellipsoid 17–20.5(–22.1) × 7–8.3 μm.



Corticolous on urban plane tree, Grey Lynn Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 02/09/2021, Licence: CC BY.



Corticolous on urban plane tree, Grey Lynn Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 02/09/2021, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to *Bacidia wellingtonii* but they are distinguished by the spores being different in shape. Could also be confused with *Lecidella elaeochroma*, which can grow in similar habitats.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

ETYMOLOGY

punctata: From the Latin punctatus 'dotted', referring to a pattern of small round dots

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (3 August 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features sections copied from Galloway (1985) & Galloway (2007).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Galloway D.J. 1985: *Flora of New Zealand: Lichens*. Wellington: PD Hasselberg, Government Printer. 662 pp.
Galloway D.J. 2007: *Flora of New Zealand: Lichens, including lichen-forming and lichenicolous fungi*. 2nd edition. Lincoln, Manaaki Whenua Press. 2261 pp.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/amandinea-punctata/>