

Aptrootia elatior

SYNONYMS

Anthracothecium monosporum Müll.Arg., *Ascidium elatius* Stirt., *Ascidium melanosporum* C.Knight, *Laurera elatior* (Stirt.) D.J.Galloway, *Polyblastiopsis monosporum* (Müll.Arg.) Upreti & Ajay Singh

FAMILY

Trypetheliaceae

AUTHORITY

Aptrootia elatior (Stirt.) Aptroot

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Crustose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: SO, Sp

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; the olive-greenish to fawnish, nodular-papillate thallus; perithecia in prominent, hemispherical, monocarpic thalline verrucae; and large, dark red-brown, densely muriform ascospores, $230\text{--}330 \times 60\text{--}90 \mu\text{m}$, that are often visible as tiny black rods on the outside of the thallus near the perithecia ($\times 10$ lens).

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Auckland (Waitakere Ranges) to Wellington. **South Island:** Nelson, Maruia Valley, Calf Paddock near Springs Junction, Otago (Mt Cargill). **Chatham Islands:** Rekohu / Wharekauri / Chatham Island. Still very much under-collected in New Zealand. Probably more widely distributed. Known also in Australia (McCarthy & Kantvilas 1993; McCarthy 2003, 2006).

HABITAT

On bark of forest trees, *Dacrydium cupressinum*, *Dysoxylum spectabile*, *Myrsine australis*, *Fuscospora fusca*, *F. solandri*, *Rhopalostylis sapida* and rarely on coastal rocks (Waitakere Ranges; Bartlett 1988: 12).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus crustose, spreading in irregular patches, 2–8(–10) cm diam., pale olive greenish, yellowish-fawn, pale yellow or grey-yellow to glaucous brown, nodular-papillate in humps or con crescent lumps, 0.3–1.2 mm diam., \pm glebose, minutely white-papillate, thick, shining or dull. **Perithecia** often densely crowded in prominent hemispherical thalline verrucae, monocarpic, 0.4–1.5 mm diam., apical pore black, indented to 0.2 or 0.3 mm diam. **Excipulum** carbonised, red-brown. **Paraphyses** colourless, branched-reticulate. **Ascospores** very large 1, occasionally 2 per ascus, encased inside a gelatinous sac which is extruded with the ascospores, which becomes dark red-brown with age, densely muriform, wall of two distinct layers, $230\text{--}330 \mu\text{m} \times 60\text{--}90 \mu\text{m}$.



Saxicolous on coastal rock, Whangārei Heads Northland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 27/01/2024, Licence: CC BY.



Saxicolous on coastal rock, Whangārei Heads Northland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 27/01/2024, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

The ascospores darken in the ascus, unlike many colourless ascospores of Trypetheliaceae and lichens that only become brown after their release from perithecia (Harris 1986). The Tasmanian terricolous species *Laurera robusta* McCarthy & Kantvilas, has large, dark-brown, muriform ascospores that darken in the ascus before release (McCarthy & Kantvilas 1993).

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

ETYMOLOGY

aptrootia: Named after Dutch lichenologist and mycologist André Aptroot

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (29 November 2023). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, and Similar taxa sections copied from Galloway (1985, 2007).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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