

Biatoropsis usnearum

FAMILY

Tremellaceae

AUTHORITY

Biatoropsis usnearum Räsänen

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Fruticose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the lichenicolous habit (growing on other lichens); the formation of pale pinkish to reddish brown, dark-brown or black, convex galls, 0.2–2.5 mm diam., often on the branch tips of the host (*Usnea*); auriculoid basidiomata, 20–44 µm long, with elongate epibasidia almost parallel to the basidium; basidiospores with a distinct apiculum.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Warkworth) to Wellington. **South Island:** Nelson to Southland. **Stewart Island. Auckland Islands. Chatham Islands.**

Widely distributed in temperate and tropical biomes and ranging from s.l. to 3600 m and known from Europe, Asia, Africa, North, Central and South America, Australia and the Falkland Islands.

HABITAT

Hosts: grows on species of *Usnea*.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Basidiomata extremely variable in form, size and colour, generally subspherical and convex with a constricted base, often with lobate margins, sometimes flattened or with a concave central part, rarely effuse and covering larger areas around the branches of the host, **surface** smooth, rarely tuberculate, cartilaginous, pale pinkish, reddish-brown, dark-brown or black, 0.2–2.5 mm diam. **Context** hyphae 2–3 µm wide, mostly uniform, the walls not markedly thickened, clamp connections absent; haustorial branches frequent, mother cell subspherical or sometimes elongate, 2.5–4.5 µm diam., haustorial filaments 0.5–1 µm thick, 3–7 µm long. **Hymenium** hyaline, sometimes reddish brown in upper part and then yellow in K, thickness variable, with numerous probasidia. **Basidia** when mature, clavate to subcylindrical, with 1–3 transverse septa, 20–44 × 3–6.5 µm; epibasidia 2–3 µm thick, and to 85 µm long. **Basidiospores** subglobose to ellipsoidal, with a distinct apiculum, 4.5–8 × 4–7.5 µm. **Anamorph** hyphomycetous, often present, forming long branching chains of hyaline, ellipsoidal, simple conidia 3–5 × 2–3.5 µm.

SUBSTRATE

Lichenicolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (6 May 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features sections copied from Galloway (2007).



On *Usnea rubicunda*, Hokianga Far North.
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On *Usnea rubicunda*, Waitomo Waikato.
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REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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/biatoropsis-usnearum/>