

Brigantiaea fuscolutea

FAMILY

Brigantiaeeaceae

AUTHORITY

Brigantiaea fuscolutea (Dicks.) R.Sant.

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

Easily recognised by the pale whitish encrusting thallus and the mustard-yellow, scattered, large, subpedicellate apothecia often with a dense covering of anthraquinone crystals on the margins and disc.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Gisborne (Mt Hikurangi). **South Island:** Nelson (Fenella Hut Cobb Valley, Dun Saddle), Canterbury (Craigieburn Ra.), Otago (Old Woman Ra., Old Man Ra.), Southland (Longwood Ra.). **Stewart Island.** Bipolar. Known also from Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, Finland, the Faeroes, Jan Mayen, Iceland, North and South America, Asia and South Georgia.

HABITAT

In subalpine grasslands and fellfield where it encrusts bryophytes, decumbent vegetation or occasionally bare soil.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus thin, granular-verrucose, matt or shining, white or grey-white to pale yellowish-grey, spreading, to 8 cm diam., muscicolous or terricolous. **Apothecia** to 4 mm diam., sessile to subpedicellate, disc concave at first, becoming plane or subconvex, mustard-yellow to orange or yellow-brown, margins persistent, rather thick, entire to irregularly crenate, inflexed, stipe near the base brownish and without anthraquinone crystals. Hypothecium thick, colourless, 100-150 µm tall. **Ascospores** 1 per ascus, colourless, 8-105(-120) × 25-45(-55) µm muriform, ellipsoid or oblong.

Chemistry: Atranorin, chloratranorin, parietin.

Specimens of *B. fuscolutea* are sometimes parasitised by the lichenicolous fungus *Dactylopsora frigida*.

SIMILAR TAXA

Brigantiaea fuscolutea may be confused with sterile *Teramelas confusus* that has closely similar papillate, white spreading encrusting thalli, but when fertile, the two taxa that are often sympatric are readily separable, as *T. confusus* has shiny coal-black apothecia.

SUBSTRATE

Terricolous (ground).



Seen on soil. Photographer: Marley Ford, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (3 March 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat and Features sections copied from Galloway (1985, 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/brigantiaea-fuscolutea/>