Calycidium polycarpum

SYNONYMS
Coniophyllum colensoi, Sphaerophorus polycarpum

FAMILY
Sphaerophoraceae

AUTHORITY
Calycidium polycarpum (Colenso) Wedin

FLORA CATEGORY
Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON
No

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Lichens - Foliose

Edwards Valley, Arthurs Pass National Park. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 06/02/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2018 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Characterised by the sturdy thalli (in smaller patches than those of *Calycidium cuneatum*), the larger, more sessile apothecia, the slightly larger ascospores, and a chemistry deficient in sphaerophorin but containing at least two major xanthones.

DISTRIBUTION
North Island: Gisborne (Lake Waikaremoana), Wellington (Tongariro National Park, Ruahine Ranges, York Bay).
South Island: Nelson (Lake Rotoiti), Canterbury (Craigieburn Ranges), Southland (Oblong Hill, Lake Hauroko).
Known also from Tasmania, Chile and Argentina.

HABITAT
On trunks of beech (*Fuscospora* and *Lophozonia)*, in forest, 360–1180 m.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Thallus forming relatively small patches, often of a small number of lobes. **Lobes** 2.5–13(–15.5) mm wide and (3–)9–16(–19) mm long. **Apothecia** marginal (0.5–)1–2(–2.5) mm wide, 1–13 per fertile lobe. **Asci** 15–22 × 5–7 µm. **Ascospores** (4–)4.5–5.5(–6.5) µm diam.
Chemistry: K–, C–, KC–, Pd–, UV+ orange (underside of thallus); containing 3-O-methyl-5,7-dichloronorlichexanthone, 3-O-methyl-2,5,7-trichloronorlichexanthone and traces of c. 3 other unidentified xanthones

SIMILAR TAXA
Calycidium polycarpum differs from *C. cuneatum* in forming smaller patches on trunks, and in having less distinctly incised lobes. *Calycidium cuneatum* has lobes with distinct incisions between the apothecia, and the apothecia may appear shortly stalked. Apothecia of *C. polycarpum* are also larger (to 2.5 mm wide) than those of *C. cuneatum* (to 1.5 mm wide), and the ascospores are slightly, but significantly, larger than in *C. polycarpum*. *Calycidium cuneatum* can be identified by the presence of sphaeophorin (reacting UV+ white), while *C. polycarpum* does not have sphaerophorin but has xanthones present. *Calycidium cuneatum* also tends to be less robust than *C. polycarpum* (Wedin 2002).

SUBSTRATE
Corticolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (25 August 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, and Similar taxa sections copied from Galloway (2007).

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.

Wedin M. 2002: The genus *Calycidium*. *Lichenologist 34(1)*: 63-69.

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/calycidium-polycarpum/