

# Candelariella vitellina

## COMMON NAME

Common goldspeck lichen

## SYNONYMS

*Candelariella neozelandica*, *Lichen vitellinus*

## FAMILY

Candelariaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Candelariella vitellina* (Ehrh.) Müll.Arg.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Crustose

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

*Candelariella vitellina* is very variable but is characterised by: scattered to contiguous, convex to spherical granules, or compacted into small, shortly lobulate clusters of often fertile, subsquamulose rosettes; the colour ranging from yellow to dull, deep-orange or brown-yellow; the numerous, congested apothecia; and multi-spored asci.

## DISTRIBUTION

**North Island:** Auckland to Wellington. **South Island:** Nelson to Southland. **Stewart Island.**

Widespread in both hemispheres being known from Great Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, North and South America, Asia, Japan, Australia, Chile, South Georgia, South Orkney Islands, South Shetland Islands, Charcot Island, and Antarctica.

## HABITAT

Very widespread on siliceous and calcareous rocks, walls, bricks, decorticated wood (fenceposts, gates, painted railings etc.), footpaths, curbing, rusted iron railings, especially common in nutrient-enriched and dusty man-made and urban habitats, and on bird-perch rocks, often very abundant, coastal and inland. It is characteristic of moderately polluted and eutrophic habitats.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** lemon-yellow to yolk-yellow, mustard to brown-yellow, ± olive-greenish in shade, dull, granular to verrucose-areolate, the granules to 0.2 mm broad but frequently flattened and forming masses to 5 mm broad, in groups, the colour very variable. **Apothecia** to 1.5 mm wide, often crowded, sessile, flat to subconvex, margins entire or becoming granular-sorediate or entirely disappearing, flexuose or crenulate. **Ascospores** numerous (12-30 per ascus), colourless, oblong to ellipsoid, slightly curved, apices rounded, 9-15 × 4.5-6.5 µm.

**Chemistry:** Thallus K-; containing calycin and pulvinic acid dilactone.



Harper River. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 08/02/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Banks Peninsula. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 23/06/2019, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## SUBSTRATE

Saxicolous, lignicolous (fenceposts, gates, railings), artificial surfaces (walls, bricks, footpaths, curbing, iron railings)

## ETYMOLOGY

**vitellina:** Yellow like an egg yolk

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (9 March 2022). 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/candelariella-vitellina/>