

Cetraria islandica subsp. antarctica

FAMILY

Parmeliaceae

AUTHORITY

Cetraria islandica subsp. *antarctica* Kärnefelt

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

DISTRIBUTION

South Island: Nelson (St Arnaud Range, Mt Technical above Lewis Pass), Marlborough (Black Birch Range), Canterbury (Torlesse Range, Mt Somers, Mt Peel, Four Peaks Range, Mt Nimrod Hunters Hills), Otago (Humboldt Mountains, Remarkables, Pisa Range, Dunstan Mountains, St Mary's Range., Hawkdun Range, Kakanui Mountains, Old Man Range, Umbrella Mountains, Garvie Mountains, Rock & Pillar Range, Lammermoor Range).

Known also from the Snowy Mountains and Tasmania in Australia, in Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego and Isla de los Estados in southern South America, the Falklands Islands, South Georgia, and from Mount Wilhelm in Papua New Guinea.

HABITAT

Among cushion or fellfield vegetation, 1400–1800 m.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus (1-)2-4(-6) cm tall, usually dichotomously branching, sometimes with only a few short lateral branches, rarely unbranched. **Lobes** variable, rather stiff and thick, 1-5(-15) mm broad, canaliculate or flatter with margins bent inwards, rarely flat and then only widest lobes, margins usually with a distinct ledge. **Lower surface** dark brown or chestnut-brown in upper parts, dominating middle part usually lighter in colour, yellowish-brown or greyish-brown, basal parts dullish red to dark red, usually smooth, sometimes slightly wrinkled or pitted especially in broader lobe portions, glossy or dull. **Upper surface** concolorous, sometimes darker especially in upper parts, glossy or dull, marginal pseudocyphellae sometimes forming a continuous line, but often only present as whitish dots along margin, laminal pseudocyphellae when present few and small, marginal projections usually present, numerous to sparse, 0.1-0.5 mm long. **Apothecia** not seen. **Pycnidia** dark brown at ends of marginal projections. **Conidia** rod-shaped $6 \times 1 \mu\text{m}$.

Chemistry: Medulla K- or K+ yellowish, C-, KC-, Pd- yellowish to reddish or -; containing fumarprotocetraric acid (\pm) and lichesterinic and protolichesterinic acids.

SIMILAR TAXA

Cetraria islandica subsp. *antarctica* differs from subsp. *islandica* (which occurs in Europe, northern Asia and North America) in its usually smaller and stiffer lobes, the few laminal pseudocyphellae, and the frequently abundant marginal projections.



Local in alpine lichen fields/cushion fields, Mavora Southland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 16/03/2023, Licence: CC BY.



Local in alpine lichen fields/cushion fields, Mavora Southland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 16/03/2023, Licence: CC BY.

SUBSTRATE

Terricolous

ETYMOLOGY

antarctica: Antarctic

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (4 February 2024). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features and Similar taxa sections copied from Galloway (1985) & Galloway (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/cetraria-islandica-subsp-antarctica/>