

Cladia blanchonii

FAMILY

Cladoniaceae

AUTHORITY

Cladia blanchonii Parmen & Lumbsch

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Fruticose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP

DISTRIBUTION

Widespread in New Zealand.

Also found in Tasmania and south-eastern continental Australia.

HABITAT

Mostly specimens have been found on mossy soil and rocky outcrops.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Characterised by inflated and tapered sterile **pseudopodetia**, with glossy, pale yellow to greenish brown surface, mostly dichotomously branched toward the apex. Perforations rare to abundant. Fertile pseudopodetia robust and either inflated or not, and racemosely branched. Perforations abundant. Conidiomata on terminal branches of sterile pseudopodetia, conidia 5–7.5 µm long, bacilliform. **Apothecia** on short terminal branches of fertile pseudopodetia, 0.5–1.0 mm wide, disk concave to plane, brownish black; ascospores ellipsoid, non-septate, hyaline, 6.25–7.50 × 2.5 µm, 8 per ascus. Secondary chemistry: Barbatic acid and 4-O-demethylbarbatic acid.

SIMILAR TAXA

Several other taxa in the *Cladia aggregata* group look similar (e.g. *Cladia gorgonea*). Separation based on morphology alone can be difficult. Parmen *et al.* (2013) state: "The majority of species in this complex are primarily cryptic, since morphological and chemical characters show some degree of plasticity within at least some of the clades. However, phenotypical characters are not randomly distributed among clades. Hence, the species can often be characterized by a combination of several phenotypical characters."

SUBSTRATE

Terricolous (on soil), saxicolous

ETYMOLOGY

blanchonii: Named after the New Zealand lichenologist, Dan Blanchon, who collected the type material of this species.



Te Whakaru Island, Chatham Islands/Rekohu.
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ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (13 August 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features and Similar taxa sections copied from Parnmen *et al.* (2013).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Parnmen S., Leavitt S.D., Rangsiruji A. and Lumbsch H.T. 2013: Identification of species in the *Cladia aggregata* group using DNA barcoding (Ascomycota: Lecanorales). *Phytotaxa* 115(1): 1–14.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cladia-blanchonii/>