

# Cladia cryptica

## FAMILY

Cladoniaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Cladia cryptica* Parnmen & Lumbsch

## FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Fruticose

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Data Deficient

## DISTRIBUTION

Known from New Zealand, Australia, and Malaysia.

## HABITAT

It is found on soil, grassy soil and rocks. In Tasmania, this species was found in dry sclerophyll forests.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Characterized by inflated sterile pseudopodetia, with glossy, yellow to brownish surface, mostly dichotomously branched toward the apex. Perforations abundant. Conidiomata on terminal branches of sterile pseudopodetia, conidia 5–7.5 µm long, bacilliform. The sizes of fertile pseudopodetia are variable, with yellow to brownish yellow surfaces, racemosely branched. Apothecia on terminal branches of fertile pseudopodetia, 0.5–1.0 mm wide, disk concave to plane, brownish black; ascospores ellipsoid, non-septate, hyaline, 7–10 × 2.5 µm, 8 per ascus.

**Secondary chemistry:** two chemical races were found: I) Barbatic acid and 4-O-demethylbarbatic acid, and II) stictic acid chemosyndrome.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Very similar to other members of the *Cladia aggregata* group. This species was named by Parnmen *et al.* (2013) based on genetic distinction, however further delineation of this taxon is required.

## SUBSTRATE

Terricolous (soil), saxicolous

## ETYMOLOGY

**cryptica:** The epithet 'cryptica' refers to the fact that the species has been hidden within the *Cladia aggregata* species complex

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (15 February 2022). Distribution, Habitat, Features and Similar taxa sections adapted from Parnmen *et al.* (2013).



Terricolous in open lichenfield and under kahikatoa (*Leptospermum scoparium* var. *scoparium*) dominated shrubland, Kahurangi Nelson. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Date taken: 02/02/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Terricolous in open lichenfield and under kahikatoa (*Leptospermum scoparium* var. *scoparium*) dominated shrubland, Kahurangi Nelson. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Date taken: 02/02/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## 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-cryptica/>