

Cladonia floerkeana

SYNONYMS

Cenomyce floerkeana

FAMILY

Cladoniaceae

AUTHORITY

Cladonia floerkeana (Fr.) Flörke

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

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Prominent bright red terminal apothecia on thin podetia (stalks).

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Three Kings Islands, Northland (Pandora, Bay of Islands, Great Mercury Island), South Auckland (Hauraki Plains), Wellington (Ohakune, Pongaroa, Otaki Valley Tararua Ranges, Wainuiomata). **South Island:** Nelson (Arthur Range, St Arnaud Range), Westland (Greymouth, Franz Josef), Canterbury (Sebastopol Mt Cook), Otago (Forgotten River), Southland (Kuriwao, Seaward Bush, Awarua Bay, Cascade Creek).

Chatham Islands: (Chudleigh Reserve).

Known also from Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, Asia, Africa, North & South America, Australia, and the Pacific.

HABITAT

On decaying wood, fenceposts, peaty soils, in subalpine grassland and in *Leptospermum* heaths.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Primary squamules persistent, scattered or in depressed mats, small, to 2 mm long, entire, to crenate to sublobate, **upper surface** glaucescent to olivaceous to olive-grey, **lower surface** white, dark at base, esorediate or apices slightly granular-sorediate. **Podetia** growing from upper surface of primary squamules, slender, cylindrical, 4-10 mm tall rarely to 45 mm, unbranched or sparingly branched above. **Cortex** variable, smooth, greyish, to indistinctly areolate, areolae often separated by narrow, opaque or ± translucent bands, often granular-sorediate above, sometimes also squamulose. **Apothecia** red, prominent, terminal, convex.

Chemistry: Cortex K–, KC–, Pd+ yellow or Pd–; containing barbatic acid (major), 4-O demethylbarbatic acid (tr.), didymic acid (major) and condidymic acid (tr.), ±thamnolic acid (major).

SIMILAR TAXA

Cladonia floerkeana is distinguished from *C. macilenta* by the predominantly corticate podetia and the absence of farinose soredia. Some authors recognise the taxon as a subspecies of *C. macilenta*. It is distinguished from *C. bacillaris* (which has the same chemistry), by the presence of deformed cups from which proliferations may arise. *C. bacillaris* lacks cortex except at the base.



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SUBSTRATE

Terricolous, corticolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford and Melissa Hutchison (10 September 2021). 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/cladonia-floerkeana/>