

Cladonia imbricata

FAMILY

Cladoniaceae

AUTHORITY

Cladonia imbricata S.Hammer

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

Characterised by the tapering pale podetia, ±naked above, with patches of cortex at the base and development of small microsquamules, giving a somewhat fuzzy to bristly appearance to the podetia (it looks like a skinny Christmas tree).

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland, Auckland, South Auckland. **South Island:** Nelson (Diamond Lakes), Westland (Aorangi Reserve Greymouth, Whataroa River), Canterbury (Governor's Bush Mt Cook), Otago (Kea Basin, Rees Valley, Otakau Bush, Goat Island Otago Harbour), Southland (Cascade Cove, Dusky Sound, Doubtful Sound, Manapouri, Greenhills, Awarua Bay). Known also in Australia including Tasmania.

HABITAT

Broadleaf forest, trackside. Subalpine in boulderfields and alpine fellfield.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Basal squamules persistent, 1–4 mm long, 1–2 mm wide, incised, involute, entire or sparingly to deeply incised, occasionally with coralloid-isidioid lobules at margins, yellowish to green-grey above, glossy at first, whitish below, darkening with age, esorediate. **Podetia** 0.5–3.5(–5) cm tall, narrow, tubular, straight, esorediate, subulate or blunt, unbranched or very sparingly branched, rarely cup-forming, cups narrow, closed, base of podetia with persistent cortex or melanotic, podetial surface mostly ecorticate, appearing sorediate but actually comprising masses of corticate granules that develop into incised or rounded squamules, elongating to several millimetres, coralloid, imbricating, especially towards top of podetia. **Apothecia** brown, solitary or in small, apical clusters. **Pycnidia** dark-brown to black, slightly constricted at base. **Conidia** falciform, 1–2 × 0.2–0.3 μm.

Chemistry: Medulla K–, Pd+ red; containing fumarprotocetraric acid (major) and accessory physodalic and homosekikaic acids.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to *Cladonia darwinii* but with imbricating squamules on the podetia.

SUBSTRATE

Terricolous



Terricolous trackside, St John's Bush Auckland.
Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken:
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Terricolous trackside, St John's Bush Auckland.
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ETYMOLOGY

imbricata: From the Latin imbricatus 'tiled', refers to overlapping features such as leaves

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (8 April 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features and Similar taxa sections copied from Galloway (1985) & Galloway (2007).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Hammer S. 2003: Notes on Cladoniaceae in New Zealand. *Bryologist* 106(3): 410-430.

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-imbricata/>