

Cladonia neozelandica var. neozelandica

FAMILY

Cladoniaceae

AUTHORITY

Cladonia neozelandica Vain. var. neozelandica

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 abundant, robust and strongly persistent basal squamules (up to 3 cm long), that commonly form extensive mats or clumps and only occasionally develop podetia; the clathrate-fissured podetia with entire to perforate axils; and the presence of norstictic acid (K+ red).

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Three Kings Islands, Kawerua), South Auckland (Great Mercury Island, Slipper Island, Mangaotaki Valley King Country), Wellington (Whariti, Ruahine Ranges). **South Island:** Otago (Strachan Creek, Burke River, N branch Routeburn, Pinehill Dunedin, Kaka Point), Southland (Mararoa River Lookout; Waituna Lagoon). **Stewart Island:** (Mt Anglem, Table Hill).

Known also from Tasmania.

HABITAT

On damp soil in swampy heathland, colonising clay banks, in *Leptospermum* scrub, or among tussocks in subalpine grassland.



Terricolous, Hunua Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 31/07/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Terricolous, Hunua Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 31/07/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Primary squamules usually very persistent, 3-7 mm long and 0.5-1.5 mm wide, irregularly lacinate, flat or involute-subconvex, ascending, clustered to caespitose-crowded, **upper surface** olive or yellowish-glaucous. **Lower surface** white, without soredia. **Podetia** growing from the upper surface of the primary squamules, 10-25 mm tall, 0.7-2.5 mm diam., subcylindrical, without cups, sterile or terminated with apothecia, irregularly branched, branches spreading, sides of podetia fissured, ± clathrate, ± decorticate exposing internal chondroid strands, somewhat wrinkled, axils entire or perforate, aggregated or anastomosing, often confluent, ascending, corticate. **Cortex** areolate or in parts verrucose, areolae minute, dispersed or subcontiguous, without soredia, ± squamulose, squamules small to medium, similar to primary type, interspaces corticate or decorticate, opaque, impellucid, pale yellowish or olivaceous or whitish-glaucous. **Apothecia** small, 0.6-1.0 mm diam., often solitary, entire or lobate, perforate, subpeltate, convex, brown or pale yellowish-brown.

Chemistry: Cortex K+ yellow → red, KC+ red, Pd+ orange. Atranorin, norstictic acid, zeorin and 2 unidentified compounds.

SIMILAR TAXA

It is closely similar to *C. polycarpoides* but has much larger and more robust basal squamules. It is also similar to *C. enantia*, but thalli are larger and more irregular, the apothecia are pale yellow-brown and the podetia are more obviously clathrate-fissured, and the chemistry of the two species is different (*C. enantia* has fumarprotocetraric, succinprotocetraric and protocetraric acids). This group of taxa have well-developed, persistent basal squamules.

SUBSTRATE

Terricolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (21 September 2021). 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/cladonia-neozelandica-var-neozelandica/>