

Cladonia polycarpoides

FAMILY

Cladoniaceae

AUTHORITY

Cladonia polycarpoides Nyl.

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Fruticose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the mats of persistent basal squamules up to 10 mm long and the presence of norstictic acid (K+ red). Podetia when present are regularly fertile.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Three Kings Is, Karikari Peninsula, Herekino Gorge) to Auckland (Waitakere Ra.).

Total range: North America, Central America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Mongolia, New Caledonia, and Australia.

HABITAT

On soil, frequently as squamules.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Basal squamules persistent, conspicuous, to 10 mm long and 3 mm wide, subdichotomous, lacinate, apices rounded, **underside white**, upper surface olive-green to brown, becoming erect, forming tufts and exposing white lower surface. **Podetia** growing from upper surface of basal squamules, 5–25 mm tall, 0.5–2.5 mm diam., subcylindrical, without scyphi, simple or sparingly branched towards apices; cortex continuous or subcontinuous, without soredia and usually without squamules, olive greenish to brown; podetial wall indistinctly fissured, verruculose. **Apothecia** terminal, 0.5–2.0 mm diam., convex, brown.

Chemistry: Cortex K+ red, C–, KC–, Pd+ yellow; containing norstictic, connorstictic acids and homoheveadride.

SIMILAR TAXA

C. neozelandica is similar but has generally much more robust and longer basal squamules. It is morphologically similar to *C. tessellata*.

SUBSTRATE

Terricolous.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (21 September 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features and Similar taxa sections copied from Galloway (2007).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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-polycarpoides/>