

Cladonia strangulata

FAMILY

Cladoniaceae

AUTHORITY

Cladonia strangulata S.Hammer

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Fruticose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Data Deficient

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the flattened, twisted, deformed podetia; pronounced longitudinal fissures; scattered soredia; and fumarprotocetraric acid and atranorin.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland to Auckland.

HABITAT

On roadsides and along tracks, on soil and organic substrata.



Terricolous in gumland, Lake Ohia Doubtless Bay. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 15/10/2022, Licence: CC BY.



Terricolous in gumland, Lake Ohia Doubtless Bay. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 15/10/2022, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Primary thallus squamulose, persistent or disappearing, squamules to 1 cm long and to 0.5 cm wide, spatulate, usually narrower towards base, sorediate or with scattered irregular granules, entire to subentire, barely incised at margins, glaucous-green above, whitish below, darker and blackening centrally, attached to substratum by ochraceous to black hyphae. **Podetia** to 7 cm tall, 1–2(–4) mm wide, corticate or partially irregularly granular-sorediate, especially in lower parts, 1–2(–4) mm wide, tubular and straight below, flattened and deformed-sinuate above, whitish at first, becoming glaucous-green to dull olivaceous at maturity, irregularly longitudinally fissured with fissures sometimes extending to base, occasionally with shallow, irregular, deformed, cup-like formations and flattened, twisted, longitudinally fissured branches, with brown apothecia at tips, occasionally entire podetium twisted, flattened, longitudinally fissured, branches appearing torn, sometimes with further branching at apices; soredia generally basal on podetia and proliferations (lower third), granular or occasionally farinose, scattered or in distinct, diffuse patches; squamules infrequent, similar to basal squamules, narrow at base, spatulate to flabellate and widening towards apex, esorediate or with a few, scattered soredia on the surface, occasionally enlarging and resembling flattened podetia. **Apothecia** pale- to dark-brown, subglobose, solitary or rarely in clusters. **Asci** and **ascospores** not seen. **Pycnidia** pale-brown to black, obconical to subglobose.

Chemistry: Cortex K+ yellow, C–, KC–, Pd+ reddish, UV–; containing fumarprotocetraric acid and atranorin.

SIMILAR TAXA

It is similar to *C. corymbescens* but is sorediate. It has wider podetia and coarser soredia than *C. scabriuscula*, and the podetia of this latter species are terete and not flattened-deformed. The pronounced flattening of *C. strangulata* is similar to that in *C. incerta* but this species never has longitudinal fissures, and has abundant farinose soredia.

SUBSTRATE

Terricolous

ETYMOLOGY

strangulata: Constricted

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (22 April 2023). Information in the 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-strangulata/>