

Cladonia tessellata

FAMILY

Cladoniaceae

AUTHORITY

Cladonia tessellata Ahti & Kashiw.

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 small, concave basal squamules (2–3 × 0.5–1 mm); simple or sparingly branched podetia without cracks; the tessellate or elevated areolae produced on the podetial surface; pale- to dark-brown apothecia at the apices of podetia; and atranorin and fumarprotocetraric acid.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: South Auckland (Rotorua). **South Island:** Westland, Otago (Makarora, Damper Bay Lake Wanaka, Column Rocks Pisa Range, Leith Saddle, Mt Cargill), Southland (Sandy Point).

Also in Australia and Tasmania, Chile and the Falkland Islands.

HABITAT

On heath soils, decaying logs and in grassland.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Primary squamules persistent, small, ± circular, undivided, margins entire or subcrenate, scattered or crowded, convex above, in shaded habitats larger and looser, 3 × 1 mm, variously divided, whitish or pale bluish-green on the upper surface, whitish below, fragile. **Podetia** growing from primary squamules, slender, (3-) 10–20 mm tall, 1–5 mm diam., terete, simple or sparingly branched, entire or vertically fissured. **Cortex** verruculose and dispersed granular-corticate, green, decorticate areas becoming translucent. **Apothecia** large, terminal, bulging, wider than supporting podetium, pale or dark brown.

Chemistry: K+ brownish or red-brown, KC-, Pd+ red. Fumarprotocetraric acid.

SUBSTRATE

Terricolous

ETYMOLOGY

tessellata: From the Latin tessalatus, referring to colour arranged in small squares so it has some resemblance to tessellated pavement

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (20 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-tessellata/>