

Diploschistes scruposus

COMMON NAME

Crater lichen

SYNONYMS

Diploschistes cervinus, Leptotrema neozelandicum, Lichen scruposus

FAMILY

Graphidaceae

AUTHORITY

Diploschistes scruposus (Schreb.) Norman

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Crustose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the saxicolous habit; the verrucose, pinkish brown to yellow-brown thallus; apothecioid ascomata, 4–8-spored asci; (21–)25–35(–45) × (9–)12–18(–21) μm ascospores; and lecanoric and diploschistesic acids in the medulla. The most common alpine species in New Zealand.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Auckland (Cornwall Park), Gisborne (Mt Hikurangi), Hawke's Bay (Mt Kaweka), Wellington (Mt Ruapehu). **South Island:** Canterbury (Craigieburn Ranges, Rocky Peak Banks Peninsula), Otago (Rees Valley, Old Man Range, Poolburn Reservoir, Lake Onslow, Rock & Pillar Range, Maungatua, Black Head, Blue Mountains).

A very widely distributed species known also from Great Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, Macaronesia, Cape Verde Island, Algeria, Turkey, India, Nepal, Japan, North America, Brazil and Australia.

HABITAT

On coastal to subalpine and alpine rocks, often in dry underhangs.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus pale to dark grey, sometimes with a yellowish tinge, roughened, warted-areolate, irregularly spreading or ± suborbicular 1–5 cm diam., saxicolous. **Apothecia** urceolate at first, emerging and opening out to reveal small, black, ± pruinose discs, proper margin visible within a thalline margin. **Hypothecium** black. **Ascospores** at first 5-septate becoming muriform, 22–40 × 10–18 μm.

Chemistry: Two chemodemes (i) K–, C+ red, Pd–, UV–; containing lecanoric acid; (ii) K+ yellow, C+ red, Pd–, UV–; containing lecanoric and diploschistesic acids.



Saxicolous on basalt rock wall, Cornwall Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 25/09/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Saxicolous on basalt rock wall, Cornwall Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 25/09/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SUBSTRATE

Saxicolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (14 December 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features 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/diploschistes-scruposus/>