

Dirinaria aegialita

SYNONYMS

Parmelia aegialita Afz.

FAMILY

Caliciaceae

AUTHORITY

Dirinaria aegialita (Afzel. ex Ach.) B.J.Moore

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the saxicolous (rarely corticolous) habit; closely attached thalli; irregularly divided lobes; characteristic, laminal, finger-like or clavate outgrowths (dactyls) splitting open at the apices and producing soredia.

DISTRIBUTION

Kermadec Islands: Raoul Island (Denham Bay), on orange tree bark.

North Island: Northland (Aorangi Island, Poor Knights Island), on shaded boulders, east side of Tatua Peak.

First collected in New Zealand by Bruce Hayward in 1984 (AK 172363).

Recently found at Bream Head, Whangārei (M. Ford pers. comm. 2023).

Widespread in tropical areas.

HABITAT

In New Zealand it has been found on orange tree bark and shaded boulders.

Widespread in tropical areas, where it is most commonly found on trees and shrubs and rarely on lava.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus whitish to grey-white, to 10 cm diam., closely attached. **Lobes** irregularly divided, not confluent at apices, ±confluent centrally, flat to longitudinally wrinkled, white- pruinose at apices, sometimes with marginal pseudocyphellae 0.5–1.0 mm wide, 1–2 mm long. **Soralia** laminal, granular white, developing from ruptured apices of ±inflated, swollen dactyls (0.2–0.5 mm diam., to 0.7 mm tall). **Medulla** white. **Lower surface** corticate, black.

Apothecia not seen.

Chemistry: Cortex K+ yellow; medulla K–, C–, KC–, Pd–; containing divaricatic acid, atranorin, triterpenoids and an ochraceous pigment (K+ purple) in lowest medullary layers.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar in gross morphology to *Dirinaria applanata*, but that species never produces dactyls.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, saxicolous



Local on coastal boulders under pōhutukawa above high tide line, Bream Head Whangārei. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 27/12/2023, Licence: CC BY.



Local on coastal boulders under pōhutukawa above high tide line, Bream Head Whangārei. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 27/12/2023, Licence: CC BY.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (28 December 2023). 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/dirinaria-aegialita/>