

Fuscoderma limbatum

FAMILY

Pannariaceae

AUTHORITY

Fuscoderma limbatum P.M.Jørg. & D.J.Galloway

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, SO

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: South Auckland (Slipper Island, Hauhungaroa Range). **South Island:** Westland (Stillwater), Canterbury (Boyle River nr Lewis Pass), Otago (Chinaman's Flat, Dart Valley, Routeburn, Dunedin, Botanic Gardens).

Known also from Tasmania where it is rare.

HABITAT

Corticolous, s.l. to 650 m. A characteristic but very widely scattered, lowland forest species most often found among bryophytes and other lichens in moderate to deep shade at or near forest margins, or from trees and shrubs in frost-flat clearings, rarely in urban environments. It is a rather rare epiphyte of *Coprosma*, *Dacrycarpus*, *Leptospermum scoparium* agg., *Fuscospora cliffortioides* and on a willow trunk by the Leith Stream in shady crevices of moist, old, spongy bark.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus squamulose–subfoliose, irregularly spreading, rosette-forming, congested to ±flat, 0.5–2.5(–4) cm diam. **Lobes** short, broadly lacinate subcanaliculate in central parts to ± plane or convex, 1–4 mm wide, thick, coriaceous, tough. **Margins** slightly thickened and curled under at lobe apices, rounded, entire or shallowly notched–incised to occasionally minutely lobulate, often ±wavy, ascending to strongly involute, developing prominent blue-grey to brownish, limbiform soralia on the upturned lower surface, often eroding and leaving large whitish areas at margins of lower surface; soredia coarsely granular to minutely coralloid or glomerulate, 0.1 mm diam. or less, rarely becoming small-lobulate. **Upper surface** dark blue-green when wet, pale-grey to glaucous chestnut-brown when dry, matt to shining, shallowly papillate centrally, distinctly areolate–scabrid at margins and occasionally silky white–tomentose at lobe apices. **Lower surface** white to cream or pale-buff, delicately arachnoid, without rhizohyphae. **Apothecia** and pycnidia not seen.

Chemistry: Medulla P+ yellow-orange; containing vicanicin and norvicanicin.

SIMILAR TAXA

Specimens of *Fuscoderma limbatum* show little variation and are often found as scattered and rather few individuals among other lichens. Superficially it appears to be a slightly more leafy, sorediate version of *F. applanatum* but it has a different chemistry. It is distinct from *Leioderma sorediatum* which has an arachnoid upper surface, and no chemistry.



Corticolous in Red beech forest, Hinewai Bank's Peninsula. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 02/01/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Corticolous in Red beech forest, Hinewai Bank's Peninsula. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 02/01/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (5 January 2022). 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/fuscoderma-limbatum/>