

Fuscoderma pyxinoides

FAMILY

Pannariaceae

AUTHORITY

Fuscoderma pyxinoides P.M.Jørg.

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

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: South Auckland (Mt Pirongia). **South Island:** Canterbury (Hanmer State Forest), Otago (Rees Valley), Southland (West Dome). Still rather poorly known and collected.

Recorded once from Chile (Tierra del Fuego).

HABITAT

On bark of both introduced (*Larix*) and native trees (*Fuscospora cliffortioides*), in moderate shade in habitats of high humidity, and among mosses on shaded rocks.

It is often found on mountain beech at the margins of forest where it can form quite dense, spreading colonies on old, furrowed trunks. The colour of the thallus closely resembles that of the bark, rendering the lichen often difficult to detect.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus subfoliose forming flat, smooth appressed rosettes on smooth bark, irregularly spreading on rough bark, to 1.5 cm diam. **Lobes** flat, discrete, to 1 mm wide and 200 µm thick, similar in structure to those in *F. applanatum*, enlarged apically and there with ascending margins. Upper surface bright malachite-green to blue-green when moist, fading to creamish buff when dry, except for delimited marginal isidioid blue-grey soralia. **Prothallus** poorly developed, of thin whitish rhizohyphae. **Apothecia** to 1 mm diam., sessile, flat, orange-brown with paler, distinct proper exciple. **Hymenium** colourless to 100 µm tall. **Ascospores** apiculate, ellipsoidal, 8–10 × 4.5 µm. **Pycnidia** not seen.

Chemistry: TLC–, all reactions negative.

SIMILAR TAXA

Fuscoderma pyxinoides is a characteristic species that has a superficial resemblance to a species of *Pyxine* (its appressed, somewhat elongated lobes with marginal, delimited soralia). In this it differs markedly from other species of *Fuscoderma*, but it shares the very characteristic apothecia with the cyanobiont penetrating into the lower parts of the subhymenium, and lacking any amyloid structures in the ascus apex. In the material examined the apothecia are rare and sporadic and the species is more commonly encountered sterile.

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-pyxinoides/>