

# Heterodermia obscurata

## SYNONYMS

Physcia obscurata

## FAMILY

Physciaceae

## AUTHORITY

Heterodermia obscurata (Nyl.) Trevis.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; the robust lobes; the distinct labriform soralia; and the rusty brown or orange-pigmented lower surface (K+ purple) that is also ecorticate.

## DISTRIBUTION

**North Island:** Three Kings Islands to Wellington.

Known also from Great Britain, Europe, Asia, North, Central and South America, Hawai'i, Fiji, New Caledonia, East and South Africa, Socotra, Mauritius and Australia.

## HABITAT

On bark of coastal trees and shrubs, also on rock and soil in northern coastal habitats.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Lobes** disjunct or adjacent, ± plane, not ascending, with short lateral lobes. **Upper surface** uneven, sorediate.

**Soralia** labriform, on recurved apices of lobes. **Lower surface** ecorticate with orange-yellow hyphae overlaying medulla (K+ purple). **Apothecia** laminal, adnate to subpedicellate, thalline exciple crenulate to sorediate.

**Ascospores** with sporoblastidia, 25-35 × 15-18 µm.

**Chemistry:** Atranorin, zeorin and pigments.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to *Heterodermia casarettiana* but distinguished by the K+ purple chemical test.

## SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, occasionally saxicolous or terricolous

## ETYMOLOGY

**heterodermia:** From the Greek heteros (other, different) and derma (a skin or hide), in reference to the presence or absence of a lower cortex



Saxicolous on basalt rock wall, Mt Eden Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 21/04/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Saxicolous on basalt rock wall, Mt Eden Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 21/04/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.

### **ATTRIBUTION**

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (12 February 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, and Similar taxa sections copied from Galloway (1985, 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/heterodermia-obscurata/>