

# Heterodermia spathulifera

## FAMILY

Physciaceae

## AUTHORITY

Heterodermia spathulifera Moberg & Purvis

## FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: OL, SO

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; the narrow, shiny, firmly attached lobes with pale rhizines; spathulate, large soralia; and a chemistry containing an unidentified compound “spathulin” appearing reddish in UV above zeorin after acid charring treatment.

## DISTRIBUTION

**North Island:** Northland (Kerikeri), Auckland (Āwhitu), Waikato (Kawhia). Known also from the Azores, (the Sonoran Desert in southern California/Mexico, the Caribbean, Asia, East and South Africa, and eastern Australia.

## HABITAT

On mangroves, coastal forest, broadleaf forest, occasionally on rock.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** irregular to orbicular, to 3 cm diam. **Lobes** narrow, to 1 mm diam., plane not widening at apices, discrete to adjacent, firmly adnate, with marginal rhizines visible from above. **Upper surface** white or creamish, glossy, epruinose, sorediate. **Soralia** labriform, sometimes becoming large, to 5 mm tall, and spathulate, in humid sites developing into squamules aggregating centrally. **Lower surface** ecorticate, whitish at margins darkening to pale-brown centrally. **Rhizines** sparse, simple, 1–2 mm long, white or creamish, appearing as cilia on margins. **Apothecia** not seen.

**Chemistry:** Cortex K+ yellow, medulla K+ yellow, C–, KC–, Pd–; containing atranorin, zeorin and an unidentified compound [“spathulin”].

## SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, saxicolous

## 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



Corticolous on pōhutukawa, Whangārei Heads Northland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 27/12/2023, Licence: CC BY.



Corticolous on pōhutukawa, Whangārei Heads Northland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 27/12/2023, Licence: CC BY.

### **ATTRIBUTION**

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (4 December 2023). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features 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/heterodermia-spathulifera/>