

Heterodermia speciosa

SYNONYMS

Lichen speciosus Wulfen in N. Jacquin

FAMILY

Physciaceae

AUTHORITY

Heterodermia speciosa (Wulfen) 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 marginal soralia and pale upper surface; and the corticate lower surface.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Three Kings Island to Wellington. **South Island:** Nelson, Canterbury.

Known also from Great Britain, Ireland, Europe, Scandinavia, the Azores, Asia, British Columbia, Hawai'i, Mexico, Brazil, East Africa, and Australia.

HABITAT

On trees, often in urban areas and open, modified habitats.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Lobes slightly disjunct or adjacent, ± plane, not ascending, with short lateral lobes. **Upper surface** even, sorediate. Soralia apical on main and lateral lobes, labriform, soredia whitish or greyish, granular. **Lower surface** corticate. **Apothecia** laminal, sessile to subpedicellate, thalline exciple sorediate. **Ascospores** without sporoblastidia, 25–35 × 12–18 µm.

Chemistry: Atranorin, zeorin, ± norstictic acid and three unidentified triterpenoids.

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily confused with *Heterodermia tremulans* which has short, often flexuose lobes and smaller spores (23–32 × 12–14 µm), *Heterodermia speciosa* has linear-elongate lobes and larger spores (25–37 × 14–18 µm).

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous



Local on exposed branches of totara (*Podocarpus totara* var. *totara*), with *Ramalina celastri* and *Parmotrema reticulatum*, Hokianga Northland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 16/02/2021, Licence: CC BY.



Local on exposed branches of totara (*Podocarpus totara* var. *totara*), with *Ramalina celastri* and *Parmotrema reticulatum*, Hokianga Northland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 16/02/2021, Licence: CC BY.

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

speciosa: Handsome

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (25 April 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features 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-speciosa/>