

Lecanactis mollis

SYNONYMS

Sagenidium molle

FAMILY

Roccellaceae

AUTHORITY

Lecanactis mollis (Stirt.) Frisch & Ertz

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Filamentous

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; the grey-white or bluish-grey, spreading, byssoid thallus; lecideine, plane black apothecia with densely white-pruinose discs; 5-septate ascospores, $22-30(-35) \times 3-8 \mu\text{m}$; and lepranic acid as the major chemical compound.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Radar Bush, Warawara State Forest), South Auckland (Kuratau, Moerangi, King Country), Gisborne (Lake Waikareiti), to Wellington (Tararua Ranges). **South Island:** Nelson (Kakapo Saddle Whangapeka Track, Burgoo Stream, Mt Herbert, Cobb Valley, Fyfe River, St Arnaud Range, Flora Saddle Mt Arthur Range), Canterbury (Arthur's Pass), Otago (Leith Saddle, Blue Mts), Southland (Percy Saddle, Lake Manapouri, Monowai, Longwood Range, Bluff Hill). **Stewart Island:** (Ulva Island, Fraser Peaks Magog, Islet Cove Port Pegasus).

Also known in Australia (Tasmania and Victoria).

HABITAT

An epiphyte of mature forest trees, e.g. *Dacrycarpus*, *Podocarpus* and *Nothofagus*, [*Fuscospora*, *Lophozonia*] where it is found typically on the undersides of inclined trunks or large branches in dry, overhanging habitats protected from direct contact with rain or water runnels, a particular ecology that is shared by a number of lichen genera including *Bactrospora*, *Chaenotheca* and *Lecanactis*, and by a number of byssoid lichens elsewhere (see Rogers & Hafellner 1987; Kantvilas 1996). A specimen (CHR 507158) collected by David Glennly from Branch Hut, Fyfe River, is from a dry marble wall in *Nothofagus menziesii* [*Lophozonia menziesii*] forest.



Kepler Track, Fiordland. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 02/10/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Kepler Track, Fiordland. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 02/10/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus white to greyish-blue-white, soft, felted, in fine strands, 0.2-0.4 mm thick and 4-8 mm tall, and to 10(-15) cm diam., orbicular or irregularly spreading, without soredia or isidia, corticolous, or muscicolous. **Apothecia** emergent, lateral and terminal on strands, frequent to absent, subpedicellate, subglobose, disc concave to plane or subconvex, black or brown-black, distinctly white-tomentose, 0.5-1(-2) mm diam. **Ascospores** fusiform with pointed ends, 5-septate, locules rounded, slightly curved 22-30(-34) × 3-8 µm.

Tasmanian populations of *Sagenidium molle* are parasitised by the lichenicolous fungus *Arthonia sagenidii* Vězda & Kantvilasntvilas & Vězda 1992), but to date this has not been noted from New Zealand populations.

Chemistry: Lepraric acid ±schizopeltic acid.

SIMILAR TAXA

It is distinguished from *Roccellinastrum neglectum* in its morphology (spreading rosettes rather than discrete lobes), ecology (dry underhangs on trunks and large branches of mature forest trees), chemistry and ascospores.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous (bark), saxicolous (occasionally)

ETYMOLOGY

mollis: Soft

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (16 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.

Kantvilas G. 1996 ["1995"]: Alpine lichens of Tasmania's south west wilderness. *Lichenologist* 27: 433-449

Rogers R.W.; Hafellner J. 1987: *Sagenidiopsis*, a new genus of byssoid lichenized fungi. *Lichenologist* 19: 401-408.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lecanactis-mollis/>