

Lecania turicensis var. turicensis

FAMILY

Ramalinaceae

AUTHORITY

Lecania turicensis (Hepp) Müll.Arg. var. *turicensis*

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Crustose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: SO, Sp

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by apothecia with a whitish amphithecium that often becomes excluded, pruinose discs, and a white-grey thallus. A rather variable species.

DISTRIBUTION

Recently recorded from New Zealand (2007).

South Island: Nelson (Pig Valley, Golden Bay), Canterbury, Southland.

Widely distributed in Europe, northern Africa, western Asia and North America.

HABITAT

Found on calcareous and non-calcareous rocks, mortar or walls (brick), caliche or rarely shells, coastal and inland.



DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus: crustose, granular to irregularly granular-areolate or areolate, effuse, sometimes almost disappearing or endolithic, up to 0.5 mm thick **areoles:** mostly sharply angular, sometimes dissolved into a powdery (leproselike) crust **upper surface:** glaucous-white, reddish white, whitish gray or pale brownish gray, not discolored when wet, dull, smooth to rugulose, epruinose **upper cortex:** sometimes present but not well-developed, composed of paraplectenchymatous cells, 20-50 µm thick, overlain by an epinecral layer up to c. 20 µm thick, without crystals **medulla:** not developed **algal layer:** irregular, 50-150 µm thick; algal cells: 8-15 µm in diam. **Apothecia:** numerous, scattered to crowded and deformed, rarely almost semiglobose, broadly sessile, up to 0.8 mm diam. disc: reddish brown to black, when moist becoming slightly paler and +dark-spotted, with a dark-pigmented edge, plane to moderately convex, pale gray-white pruinose margin: thalline, concolorous with the thallus, narrow (< 0.1mm wide), level with disc, often becoming excluded and disappearing completely **amphithecium:** with an differentiated algal layer and in part, a narrow, algal-free cortical zone, overlain by a thin epinecral layer up to 10 µm thick, at times overlain by a thick crystalline layer such that no differentiated cortical zone is visible **parathecium:** sometimes visible from above, narrow to wide, up to c. 70 µm wide toward the outer edge, ±prosoplectenchymatous, long-celled towards outer part and strongly encrusted with dark brown pigment **epihymenium:** medium brown to brown-black, spotted, occasionally partly extending deeper into hymenium along the conglutinate paraphyses; epipsamma: richly present **hymenium:** hyaline below, 5580 µm tall; paraphyses: unbranched, 2-2.5 µm wide below, apically strongly clavately swollen (up to 6 µm wide), coherent in groups due to epipsamma, in a gelatinous matrix; hypothecium: hyaline, unoriented hyphae, up to 70 µm thick in center **asci:** clavate, Bacidia-type, 35-50 x 10-12 µm, 8-spored **ascospores:** hyaline, 1-septate, narrowly to somewhat broadly ellipsoid, or oblong-fusiform, straight, not constricted at septum, (8-)10-13(-15) x (4-)4.5-5.5(-6) µm, thin-walled **Pycnidia:** rare, immersed, dark-brown black around the ostiole; conidiogenous cells: elongate, c. 10 x 2 µm **conidia:** filiform, mostly strong arcuate, 12-20 x 0.8 µm

Spot tests: all negative. **Secondary metabolites:** none detected.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to other species of *Lecania* but distinguished by its pruinose apothecia with margins that become excluded, and its glaucous thallus.

Distinguished from *Lecania turicensis* var. *macrocarpa* by its smaller spores.

SUBSTRATE

Saxicolous (calcareous rocks), mortar or brick walls, rarely shells

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (2 January 2022). Brief description and Distribution adapted from Van den Boom & Mayrhofer 2007, Habitat, Features and Similar taxa sections cadapted from Nash et al. 2004.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Nash T.H., Ryan B.D., Gries, C., & Bungartz F., (eds.). 2004: *Lichen Flora of the Greater Sonoran Desert Region*. Vol 2.

Van den Boom P.P.G., & Mayrhofer H. 2007: Notes on *Lecania* species from Australasia, with the description of a new variety and a new combination in Halecania. *Australasian Lichenology* 60: 26-33.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lecania-turicensis-var-turicensis/>