

Lecanora galactiniza

COMMON NAME

galaxy lichen

FAMILY

Lecanoraceae

AUTHORITY

Lecanora galactiniza Nyl.

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Crustose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the saxicolous habit and the crowded, red-brown apothecia.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Auckland (Cornwall Park). **South Island:** Canterbury (Lowry Peaks Range, Port Hills, Banks Peninsula, Mt Peel, Rangitata Valley), Otago (Lake Wanaka, near Alexandra, Raggedy Range, Mitchell's Cottage, Symes Road).

Known also from North and South America, South Africa and Australia.

HABITAT

On siliceous rocks in rather dry, semi-arid habitats, occasionally on lakeside rocks (Wanaka). Associating with yellow and brown species of *Acarospora*, *Candelariella vitellina*, *Caloplaca amylacea*, *Parmelia sulcata*, *Physcia caesia*, *Teloschistes velifer* and species of *Xanthoparmelia* (brown forms).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus crustose, uniform, closely attached, areolate to subsquamulose, sometimes with protruding marginal lobes though margins generally effigurate to indistinct, yellow-white to yellow-grey, sometimes rather glossy, without pruina. **Apothecia** immersed at first becoming sessile, 0.4–1.2 mm diam. **Thalline** margin concolorous with thallus, thin, even, crenulate to verrucose; disc pale to dark red-brown, intensely red-brown to orange-red when moist, not pruinose. **Amphithecium** with large crystals, not dissolving in K (pulicaris-type). **Epithecium** 10–15 µm thick, reddish brown, the pigment not dissolving in K, with many small crystals (pulicaris-type). **Hymenium** colourless, 55–75 µm tall. Asci clavate, 45–65 × 10–16 µm. **Ascospores** ellipsoidal, 8–13 × 5–8 µm.

Chemistry: Thallus and apothecial margins: K+ yellow, C–, KC–, Pd+ yellow-orange; containing atranorin (major), ±chloroatranorin (minor).



Saxicolous on basalt rockwall, Cornwall Park Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 03/01/2022, Licence: CC BY.



Saxicolous on basalt rockwall, Cornwall Park Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 03/01/2022, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

Could be confused with *Lecanora pseudistera*, which also has red-brown apothecia and occurs on rocks. The epithecium of *L. galactiniza* has small crystals (*Lecanora pseudistera* has large crystals); and atranorin in the medulla (*L. pseudistera* has atranorin and the 2-O-methylperlatolic acid chemosyndrome). Differences between *L. galactiniza* and the related *L. pseudistera* (q.v.), are discussed in detail by Lumbsch (1994).

SUBSTRATE

Saxicolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (3 August 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, Similar Taxa and Extra information 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.

Lumbsch, H.T. 1994: *Die Lecanora subfusca-Gruppe in Australasien*. *Journal of the Hattori Botanical Laboratory* 77: 1-175.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lecanora-galactiniza/>