

Lecanora xylophila

FAMILY

Lecanoraceae

AUTHORITY

Lecanora xylophila Hue

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, Sp

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the lignicolous habit (on maritime driftwood); the large, red-brown, campestris-type apothecia, usually with smooth and even margins; a whitish or yellow-white thallus. It was formerly known as *Lecanora grantii* H. Magn.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Onerahi, Leigh), South Auckland (Waikawau Bay Coromandel Peninsula, Rurima Island), Hawke's Bay. **South Island:** Marlborough (Kaikoura). **Chatham Islands.**

Known also from North America, where it occurs along Pacific northwestern as well as eastern coasts.

HABITAT

On coastal driftwood logs, rarely on rocks. On fenceposts in open paddocks. Still rather poorly collected and understood here.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus crustose, spreading, uniform, closely attached, moderately thin, smooth, continuous to verruculose or roughened, often appearing as a thin covering over the substratum, yellow-white to yellow-grey, without pruina or soredia. **Prothallus** absent. **Apothecia** sessile, 0.5–2 mm diam.

Thalline margin concolorous with thallus, thin, smooth, flexuose, often crenate or scalloped. **Disc** plane to slightly convex, shiny, dark red-brown to somewhat blackish, intensely red-brown when moist, not pruinose.

Amphithecium with small crystals, soon dissolving in K (campestris-type). **Epithecium** 10–15 µm thick, reddish brown, pigment not dissolving in K (glabrata-type). **Asci** clavate, 55–70 µm long. **Ascospores** ellipsoidal, 12.5–17 × 6.5–8.5 µm.

Chemistry: Thallus and apothecial margins: K+ yellow, C–, KC–, Pd+ yellowish; containing as major compounds: atranorin and an unidentified triterpenoid Lgr-1; and as minor compounds: chloroatranorin and an unidentified triterpenoid Lgr-2.



On fencepost, Hokianga Far North.
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On fencepost, Hokianga Far North.
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SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to *Lecanora umbrina* but that species has apothecia that are often white-pruinose.

SUBSTRATE

Lignicolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (3 August 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, and Similar Taxa 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/lecanora-xylophila/>