

Lepra gymnospora

SYNONYMS

Pertusaria gymnospora

FAMILY

Ochrolechiaceae

AUTHORITY

Lepra gymnospora (Kantvilas) I. Schmitt, Hodgkinson & Lumbsch

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 corticolous/muscicolous habit; the thick, whitish lumpy thallus encrusting the substratum, usually leaving details such as bryophyte leaves etc. evident below; the well-developed papillate isidia with apothecia terminal on the papillae; and the presence of protocetraric acid.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: South Auckland (Coromandel Peninsula, Pakirarahi, Waimiha). **South Island:** Westland (Denniston Plateau, Kelly Range), Canterbury (Temple Basin, Arthur's Pass), Otago (Central Otago mountains, Lammerlaw Range, Rock & Pillar Range etc.); Southland (Fiordland, Deadwood Lagoon below Henry Saddle). **Stewart Island:** (Mt Anglem, Fraser Peaks).

Also in Australis (SW Tasmania).

HABITAT

Overgrowing mosses and plant detritus on ground, or on bark of trees (e.g. *Dacrydium cupressinum*), alpine to subalpine.



Mt Somers, Canterbury. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 22/09/2019, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus whitish grey to pale-grey, thick, lumpy and warty, papillate, without a prothallus, spreading over substratum (mosses, bark, detritus) to 20 cm diam. **Papillae** to 3 mm tall, 0.8–1.2 mm diam., ±cylindrical, constricted slightly at base, simple or occasionally bifurcate, rarely 2–3-confluent; surface verrucose and fissured; apices expanded, ±subglobose, becoming cracked, exfoliating and excavate. **Apothecia** immersed at tips of papillae, 1–4 per papilla, 0.8–1 mm diam., ±hemispherical, covered by a thin, greyish to pinkish thalline veil. **Paraphyses** 0.5–1.5 µm thick, densely reticulate, apices swollen to 2.5 µm. **Asci** clavate, 195–220 × 80–150 µm, walls 7–14 µm thick. **Ascospores** 1 per ascus, colourless, broadly ellipsoidal to ±globose, 85–180 × 50–150 µm, guttulate, with a gelatinous sheath not dissolving in K, discharge through ruptured. eroding apices of fertile papillae, pale-orange to ±translucent, visible (×10 lens) scattered on surface of thallus and papillae; wall single 2–15(–22) µm thick, internally rough and sculptured when mature, easily broken.

Chemistry: K–, KC–, C–, Pd+ red; containing protocetraric acid.

SIMILAR TAXA

It resembles *Lepra dactylina*; however, that species has more slender, regularly cylindrical and smooth-walled papillae, that are often very numerous and crowded, appearing caespitose.

SUBSTRATE

Muscicolous, corticolous, terricolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (1 May 2023). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features and Similar taxa sections copied from Galloway (2007).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Archer A.W.; Elix J.A. 2018: New combinations of Australian species in the genus *Lepra* Scop. *Australasian Lichenology* 82: 130-136.

Galloway D.J. 2007: *Flora of New Zealand: Lichens, including lichen-forming and lichenicolous fungi*. 2nd edition. Lincoln, Manaaki Whenua Press. 2261 pp.

Wei X.L.; Schmitt .I.; Hodkinson B.P.; Flakus A; Kukwa M.; Divakar P.K; Kirik, P.M.; Otte J.; Meiser A.; Lumbsch H.T. 2017: Circumscription of the genus *Lepra*, a recently resurrected genus to accommodate the “Variolaria”-group of *Pertusaria* sensu lato (Pertusariales, Ascomycota). *PLOS ONE* 12(7): 1-14.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lepra-gymnospora/>