

Lepra scutellifera

SYNONYMS

Pertusaria scutellifera A.W.Archer & Elix

FAMILY

Ochrolechiaceae

AUTHORITY

Lepra scutellifera (A.W.Archer & Elix) I. Schmitt, Hodgkinson & Lumbsch

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Crustose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; disc-like apothecia; 1-spored asci; and the presence of thamnolic acid.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Wellington (Mt Ruapehu, Rangataiki, Waipakahi Valley).

South Island: Nelson (Mt Arthur), Canterbury (Arthur's Pass), Otago (Rees Valley, Dart Valley), Southland (Cascade Creek, Eglington Valley, Manapouri, Alton Valley near Tuatapere).

HABITAT

On twigs of *Dracophyllum rosmarinifolium* and bark of *D. traversii*, *Lophozonia menziesii*, and *Fuscospora cliffortioides*. Associating with *Haematomma hilare*, *H. nothofagi*, *Miltidea ceroplasta*, *Tephromela atra* and species of *Usnea*.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus whitish, areolate, surface irregularly subtuberculate and dull, without isidia or soredia. **Apothecia** disc-like, conspicuous, numerous and crowded, concolorous with thallus, 0.6–1.2 mm diam.; disc orange-brown, densely white-pruinose. **Ascospores** 1 per ascus, ellipsoidal, smooth, (125–)150–185 × 45–55 µm; wall 3–5 µm thick.

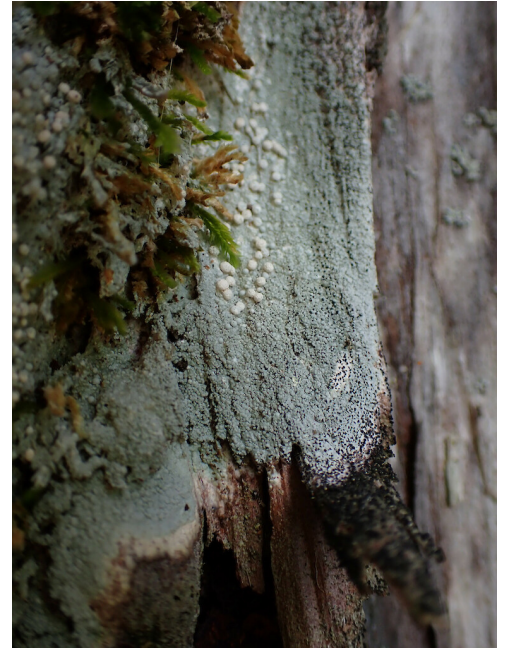
Chemistry: K+ yellow, C–, KC–, Pd+ yellow; containing thamnolic acid.

SIMILAR TAXA

It is distinguished from *P. novaezelandiae* by the chemistry (*P. novaezelandiae* contains hypothamnolic acid which reacts K+ purple-violet).

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous



Corticolous on pāhautea (*Libocedrus bidwillii*), Ruahine Range Manawatu. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 15/01/2023, Licence: CC BY.



Corticolous on pāhautea (*Libocedrus bidwillii*), Ruahine Range Manawatu. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 15/01/2023, Licence: CC BY.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (14 June 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features 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/lepra-scutellifera/>