

Lepra truncata

SYNONYMS

Pertusaria ascripta Stirt., *Pertusaria fumosa* C.Knight, *Pertusaria cupularis* C.Knight, *Pertusaria subglobulifera* Nyl., *Pertusaria nothofagi* Zahlbr., *Lecanidium nothofagi* (Zahlbr.) C.W.Dodge.

FAMILY

Pertusariaceae

AUTHORITY

Lepra truncata (Kremp.) A.W.Archer & Elix

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 habit; disc-like apothecia; (4–6–)8-spored asci; uniseriate, ellipsoidal, smooth ascospores, 19–27 × 12–15 µm; and the presence of picrolichenic acid (medulla KC+ pink-violet).

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Gisborne (Waikaremoana), South Auckland (Waiotapu Valley), Wellington (Tongariro National Park, Ruahine Range, Tararua Range). **South Island:** Nelson (Maruia Springs), Marlborough (Tophouse), Westland (Barrack Creek near Otira), Canterbury (Lewis Pass, Nina Valley, Arthur's Pass, Rhodes's Bush, Banks Peninsula, Governor's Bush Mt Cook National Park), Otago (Canyon Creek, Ahuriri Valley, Haast Pass, Makarora, Young Valley, Forgotten River, Bride Burn, Theatre Flats Rockburn, Silver Peaks), Southland (Homer, Caswell Sound, Stuart Mountains). **Stewart Island.**

Also in Victoria and Tasmania in Australia.

HABITAT

On bark of trees and shrubs in lowland to subalpine forest. Commonly on species of beech (*Fuscospora*, *Lophozonia*), but also on *Dracophyllum*, *Leptospermum*, *Metrosideros*, *Prumnopitys taxifolia*, *Pterophylla racemosa*.



Corticolous on Norfolk pine, Hokianga Northland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 14/12/2020, Licence: CC BY.



Corticolous on Norfolk pine, Hokianga Northland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 14/12/2020, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus in irregular, continuous patches 2-6(-10) cm diam., olive-green to pale grey-green or fawnish, wrinkled-verrucose or shallow papillate, areolate-cracked, shining or matt. Fertile verrucae 0.5-1.5 mm diam., to 1.2 mm tall, sessile, rounded, white-sorediate at first, margins concolorous with thallus, thick, wrinkled-striate or ± exfoliating, white-pulverulent. **Apothecia** 1 per verruca, disc pale to dark red-brown or greyish with a thick, whitish pruina. **Asci** 8-spored, clavate, occasionally 4-6-spored with small or aborted spores. **Ascospores** oval, uniseriate, (18.7-)23-36(-40) × 12-15.5(-20.3) µm, wall 1.5-3 µm thick.

Chemistry: Medulla and apices of verrucae K+ dull orange-yellow, C-, KC+ pink or violet, Pd-; containing picrolichenic acid (major), isohyperpicrolichenic acid (major), hyperpicrolichenic acid (minor) and subpicrolichenic acid (minor).

SIMILAR TAXA

Superficially similar to *P. novaezelandiae*, but is distinguished from that species by ascospore numbers and by chemistry; *P. novaezelandiae* has 1-spored asci and hypothamnolic acid (medulla and soredia K+ purple).

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (13 October April 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, and Similar taxa sections copied from Galloway (1985) and Galloway (2007).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Galloway D.J. 1985: *Flora of New Zealand: Lichens*. Wellington: PD Hasselberg, Government Printer. 662 pp.
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-truncata/>