

Lobaria adscripta

SYNONYMS

Ricasolia herbacea f. adscripta, Ricasolia herbacea var. adscripta, Sticta adscripta, Sticta efflorescens

FAMILY

Lobariaceae

AUTHORITY

Lobaria adscripta (Nyl.) Hue

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP, SO

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Little Barrier island.) southwards. **South Island:** Nelson (Lake Rotoiti) both E and W of Main Divide and inland, to Southland. **Stewart Island.**

HABITAT

In forested areas, s.l. to 900 m. More common E of the Main Divide.

Lobaria adscripta is a large foliose lichen, epiphytic on trees and shrubs in beech forest, mixed podocarp–beech forest and in coastal podocarp forest or forest remnants. It is often well-developed on the bark of *Griselinia littoralis*. Occasionally it will colonise rocks in humid situations. Primarily a light-loving species, it will also tolerate moderate shade, but does not occur deep in forest interiors.



Peel Forest, Canterbury. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 01/03/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus foliose, lobate, ± closely attached centrally, ± subascendent marginally, spreading, often in very large rosettes 5-20(-50) cm diam., corticolous, rarely saxicolous. **Lobes** broad, rounded, overlapping, sinuses shallow, evenly rounded, margins entire or weakly crenulate, sinuous, sometimes ascending or ± deflexed. **Upper surface** bright lettuce-green and brownish at margins when wet, dull olive-brownish to red-brown when dry, undulate to roughened-corrugate, not scrobiculate or faveolate, matt or shining, continuous, without isidia, soredia or pseudocyphellae, minutely scabrid-cracked centrally, in older specimens small secondary lobules may develop centrally. **Medulla** white, with internal cephalodia often visible as swellings on lower (occasionally also on upper) surface. **Lower surface** pale yellowish-buff, darker centrally, whitish in narrow marginal zone, very slightly thickened and dark brown at margins, glabrous, smooth or slightly wrinkled or roughened at margins, tomentose centrally, tomentum short, uniform, soft, pale buff, darker centrally, often with scattered, simple or squarrose, buff rhizines centrally. **Apothecia** laminal, often ± central, numerous, sessile to subpedicellate, disc red-brown, waxy, shining, shallowly to deeply concave, plane or ± undulate in mature fruits, to 8 mm diam., smooth, matt or shining, epruinose, thalline margin very massive, pale, corrugate-scabrid, inflexed when young obscuring the disc, entire to striate-areolate or weakly crenulate, thalline exciple coarsely warted-papillate, ± areolate, pale brown to yellowish-buff. **Ascospores** colourless, linear-acicular with pointed ends, 2-4-septate, 25-52 × 5-12 µm. **Pycnidia** rare to frequent, immersed, visible as small, brownish hemispherical swellings on upper surface, 0.1-0.5 mm diam., ostiole black, excavate, carbonaceous. **Conidia** straight, rod-shaped, 3 × 1 µm.

Chemistry: Cortex K-; medulla K-, C+ red, KC+ red, Pd-. Gyrophoric acid.

SIMILAR TAXA

Superficially *L. adscripta* resembles *Sticta subcaperata*, and in places these two taxa may be co-dominant. The presence of cyphellae on the lower surface of *S. subcaperata* easily distinguishes it from *L. adscripta*, and when fertile, the discs of *S. subcaperata* are bright yellow-orange and not red-brown as in *L. adscripta*. *Lobaria adscripta* is distinguished from *L. asperula* by its entire lobe margins, lack of phyllidia, and its generally larger and more robust appearance.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, occasionally saxicolous (rocks in humid habitats)

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (15 March 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, and Similar taxa sections copied from Galloway (1985, 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/lobaria-adscripta/>