

# Lobaria asperula

## SYNONYMS

Ricasolia asperula

## FAMILY

Lobariaceae

## AUTHORITY

Lobaria asperula (Stirt.) Yoshim.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Indeterminate

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## DISTRIBUTION

**North Island:** Northland (Anawhata) to Wellington. **South Island:** Canterbury (Price's Valley, Banks Peninsula) to Otago (Nugget Point).

## HABITAT

On small trees and shrubs in coastal forest remnants, s.l. to 500 m. Occasionally on rocks.



Dunsdale Recreation Reserve, Southland.  
Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken:  
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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** foliose, lobate, loosely to closely attached, to 18 cm diam., corticolous. **Lobes** contiguous, undulate, sometimes imbricate, margins deeply crenate, subplacoid, slightly thickened, inrolling and often subascendent, ± densely phyllidiate-isidiate. **Upper surface** bright lettuce-green when wet, pale yellowish-brown to olive when dry, undulate, minutely rugose-plicate, roughened or obscurely ridged towards margins, distinctly phyllidiate, matt, lacking soredia, maculae or pseudocyphellae. **Phyllidia** mainly marginal at first, spreading to lamina, squamiform, rarely simple or terete, flattened, and ± dorsiventral. **Medulla** white, containing internal cephalodia visible as rounded swellings on lower surface. **Lower surface** pale yellowish-tan at margins, brown-black centrally, smooth and glabrous at margins with a short to thick, pale to dark tomentum towards centre, and clusters of black, stout, simple or squarrose rhizines (to 5 mm long), sometimes developed. **Apothecia** laminal, sessile, or subpedicellate, rather sparse, cupuliform, disc red-brown, to 4 mm diam., matt or shining, epruinose, imperforate, margins inflexed, coarsely rugulose-striate, becoming phyllidiate, thalline exciple yellow-brown, scabrid-areolate. **Ascospores** 8 per ascus, colourless or pale brownish, fusiform, 1-3(-7)-septate, 20-42 × 6-11 µm. **Pycnidia** occasional, immersed, visible as brownish globose swellings on upper surface, ostiole black, punctiform. **Conidia** straight, rod-shaped, 2-3 × 1 µm.

**Chemistry:** Cortex K–; medulla K–, C+ red, KC+red, Pd–; containing gyrophoric acid.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Lobaria asperula* is distinguished from *L. adscripta* by the copiously phyllidiate lobes (crenate-incised to phyllidiate lobe margins), by the thinner, and more papery texture of the thallus, and by the generally smaller and more fragile appearance.

## SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, occasionally saxicolous

## ETYMOLOGY

**asperula:** From the Greek asper 'rough' referring to the leaves

## 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-asperula/>