

# Maronea constans

## FAMILY

Fuscideaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Maronea constans* (Nyl.) Hepp

## FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Crustose

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, SO

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; the neat, rosette-forming crustose thallus; red-brown apothecial discs with pale margins; a brown epithecium reacting K<sup>+</sup> violet-brown; a hyaline hymenium 60–100 µm tall, interspersed with oil droplets; a colourless hypothecium interspersed with oil droplets; and polysporous asci (walls I+ blue) containing 80–100 ascospores.

## DISTRIBUTION

**South Island:** Canterbury (Canterbury Plains), Otago (Dunedin). Probably more widespread than records show and possibly often mistaken for a species of *Lecanora* or for *Caloplaca homologa* (q.v.). Known also from Europe where it is apparently declining, in Sweden where it is rare or even extinct, in North America, India, Ecuador; Thailand, Australia and Tasmania.

## HABITAT

On bark of *Magnolia*, *Quercus*, *Sorbus* etc., on wayside trees and in parks and gardens.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** closely attached, pale green-grey to brownish, granular, orbicular, in ±neat rosettes or spreading, 1–3 cm diam., corticolous. **Apothecia** sessile, to 1.5 mm diam., rounded, ±central, disc red-brown to dull-black, matt, epruinose, margins crenulate, concolorous with thallus or paler. Epithecium brown, 10–15 µm thick, K<sup>+</sup> violet-brown. Hymenium colourless, 60–80(–90) µm tall, interspersed with oil droplets, I–. Hypothecium colourless, 30–75 µm thick. **Asci** I+ blue, 40–60 × 9–15 µm containing 80–100 spores. **Ascospores** colourless, simple to 1-septate, 3–6(–8) × 2.5–3 µm.

**Chemistry:** Thallus K–, C–. KC–, Pd–; containing sekikaic acid with traces of homosekikaic acid and 4'-O-demethylsekikaic acid.

## SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

*Maronea* is a cosmopolitan genus of 13 species included in the family Fuscideaceae. One species occurs in New Zealand and is found on the bark of introduced trees in urban and rural areas.



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### **ATTRIBUTION**

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (25 August 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features sections copied from Galloway (1985, 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/maronea-constans/>