

Megalaria melanotropa

SYNONYMS

Biatorina caesiopallens, *Biatorina caesiopallens* var. *amoenior*, *Biatorina hemitropa*, *Biatorina leucoplacoides*, *Biatorina melanotropa*, *Catillaria caesia*, *Catillaria caesiopallens*, *Catillaria caesiopallens* var. *amoenior*, *Catillaria caesiopallens* var. *tristior*, *Catillaria caesiopallens* var. *tristior* f. *nigrita*, *Catillaria hemitropa*, *Catillaria leucoplacoides*, *Catillaria melanotropa*, *Lecidea caesiopallens*, *Lecidea caesiopallens* var. *amoenior*, *Lecidea hemitropa*, *Lecidea leucoplacoides*, *Lecidea melanotropa*, *Patellaria caesiopallens*, *Patellaria caesiopallens* f. *amoenior*, *Patellaria hemitropa*, *Patellaria leucoplacoides*, *Patellaria melanotropa*

FAMILY

Ramalinaceae

AUTHORITY

Megalaria melanotropa (Nyl.) D.J.Galloway

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

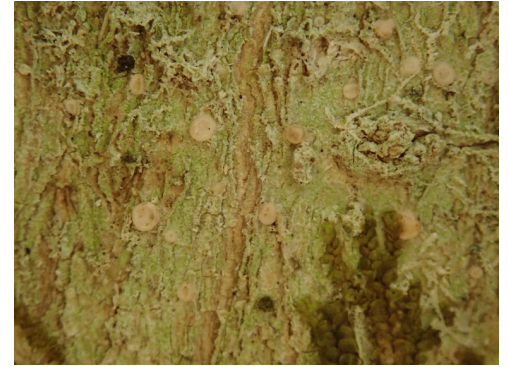
Characterised by the corticolous habit; the whitish or pale greenish, wrinkled–verrucose to areolate or furfuraceous thallus, with or without a delimiting, wavy, black, marginal prothallus; sessile apothecia, 0.1–1.0 mm diam., the disc brownish to red-brown and white-pruinose; and oval or broadly ellipsoidal ascospores, (13.5–)15–19(–22) × 6–7(–9) μm. It is a commonly collected, very variable species. Thallus colour varies from whitish cream to olive-greenish, often in the same specimen; some collections from exposed habitats are also ±blackened. The thallus can be moderately thick and well-developed to ±effuse and discontinuous. Apothecia vary considerably in the presence and quantity of pruina developed, densely pruinose and epruinose fruits often occurring on the same specimen; thallus margins also vary from black and matt to red-brown and translucent. The extensive synonymy stems mainly from formal recognition of these variations in colour and texture of apothecia.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland to Wellington. **South Island:** Nelson to Southland. **Stewart Island.** **Campbell Island.**

HABITAT

Widely distributed on bark of trees and shrubs in lowland forest.



On tree privet in the Waikatō. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 23/02/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.



On tree privet in the Waikatō. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 23/02/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus creamy, whitish or pale greenish, thin or thick, scattered or ± continuous, verrucose-rimose to ± areolate to ± furfuraceous, uneven-verrucose, shining or matt, in irregular patches 1-3(-8) cm diam., with or without a thin, black, wavy **prothallus** at margins, corticolous. **Apothecia** sessile, constricted at base, solitary or 1-3-confluent, plane to convex, 0.1-1.0 mm diam., disc brownish-black to reddish-brown, with or without a distinct blue-white pruina, margins prominent, swollen, entire to subcrenulate, persistent, blackened concolorous with disc in exposed forms, or more often reddish-brown, translucent. **Epithecium** black or olive-brown, 10-13 µm thick. **Hymenium** colourless 60-75 µm tall. **Hypothecium** olive-greenish or brownish, 40-50 µm thick. **Asci** I+ blue. **Ascospores** biseriolate oval or broadly ellipsoid with pointed or rounded ends (13.5-)15-19(-22) × 6-7(-9) µm, straight or slightly curved and ± fabiform.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (14 June 2023). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features 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/megalaria-melanotropa/>