

Megalospora pauciseptata

SYNONYMS

Austroblastenia pauciseptata, *Heterothecium pauciseptatum*, *Lopadium pauciseptatum*

FAMILY

Megalosporaceae

AUTHORITY

Megalospora pauciseptata (Shirley) Kantvilas & Lumbsch

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/saxicolous habit; greyish white or whitish verrucose thallus with scattered, capitate soralia; prominent, large, brownish or dark red-brown, convex, waxy apothecial discs with a thin, pale margin; and 3-septate ascospores (34–40 × 14–20 µm) that have thick, transverse septa.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Auckland (Anawhata), South Auckland (Moehau, Coromandel Peninsula; Te Aroha), Gisborne (Mt Hikurangi), Taranaki (Mt Taranaki) to Wellington. **South Island:** Nelson (Mt Cobb, Cobb Lake, Mt Aorere, Dun Mt, Mt Glasgow, Mt Rochfort, Springs Junction), Westland (Lake Mahinapua, Fox Glacier), Southland (Wilmot Pass, Percy Saddle).

Stewart Island: (Tin Range, Noble Island Port Pegasus).

Also in Tasmania Australia.

HABITAT

On bark and lignum of *Dracophyllum traversii*, *Griselinia littoralis*, *Libocedrus bidwillii*, *Phyllocladus asplenifolius* ssp. *alpinus* [*Phyllocladus alpinus*], *Rhopalostylus sapida*, rarely on rock. Common in stunted podocarp forest in wetter western areas, less commonly on *Nothofagus solandri* var. *cliffortioides* [*Fuscospora cliffortioides*], 500–1000 m.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus pale grey to whitish-grey, usually rather thick and cracked, wrinkled to verrucose, verrucae 0.4–0.8 mm diam., often bursting and developing superficial or capitate soralia. Soredia 20–40 µm diam. Isidia absent.

Apothecia scattered, 0.7–3.5 mm diam., disc plane, becoming convex with age, brown or dark-brown, epruinose, glossy, margins ± prominent in young fruits, rather thin, slightly darker than disc or paler than disc, entire, becoming flexuose in older fruits. Epithecium orange-brown, diffuse, 15–20 µm thick. Hymenium 120–160 µm tall, 1+ reddish.

Ascospores (4-)8 per ascus, 3-septate, straight or curved, 35–40 × 16–19 µm.

Chemistry: Thallus K–, C–, KC–, Pd+ orange; containing pannarin and zeorin.



Stewart Island. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 20/04/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, rarely saxicolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (19 January 2022). 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/megalospora-pauciseptata/>