

# Megalospora pupa

## SYNONYMS

Austroblastenia pupa

## FAMILY

Megalosporaceae

## AUTHORITY

Megalospora pupa (Sipman) Kantvilas & Lumbsch

## FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Crustose

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: SO

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; the thin, pale greenish grey to pale-grey thallus; apothecia with scattered, coarse whitish or greyish pruina on the pale orange-brown to reddish brown discs; and 4–8 highly distinctive, ovoid to subglobose, muriform ascospores, 45–80 × 23–32 µm (10–14 transverse septa and 4–5 vertical septa).

## DISTRIBUTION

**North Island:** Hawke's Bay (Kuripapango). **South Island:** Nelson (Stockton Plateau), Westland (Otira), Southland (Cascade Cove, Dusky Sound).

Australasian. At the time of its description it was thought to be a New Zealand endemic, but it is now known from Tasmania, where it is one of the most common and widespread species of the Megalosporaceae.

## HABITAT

On bark in both podocarp and beech forest, s.l. to 1000 m.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** pale grey to pale greenish-grey, thin, slightly wrinkled or smooth, occasionally thicker and cracked, soredia and isidia absent. **Apothecia** scattered 0.6–2.1 mm diam., disc consistently plane, brown, with scattered, coarse, whitish pruina, dull, margins prominent, narrow, black, epruinose, glossy. **Epithecium** pale yellow-orange or red-brown, diffuse, with a granular upper layer, 18–24 µm thick. **Hymenium** 180–250 µm tall, l+ dark blue. **Ascospores** 4–8 per ascus, ovoid to subglobose, straight, muriform, 45–80 × 23–32 µm (10–14 transverse septa and 4–5 vertical septa).

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

## SIMILAR TAXA

Most similar to *Megalospora pauciseptata*, but that species has 3-septate ascospores, whereas *M. pupa* has muriform ascospores.

## SUBSTRATE

Corticolous



### **ATTRIBUTION**

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (18 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/megalospora-pupa/>