

# Melanohalea zopheroa

## SYNONYMS

*Parmelia zopheroa* Essl., *Melanelia zopheroa* (Essl.) Essl.

## FAMILY

Parmeliaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Melanohalea zopheroa* (Essl.) O.Blanco, A.Crespo, Divakar, Essl., D.Hawksw. & Lumbsch

## FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; the olive-green to dark-brown thalli with laminal, white pseudocyphellae; commonly developed apothecia; and no medullary chemistry.

## DISTRIBUTION

**South Island:** Canterbury (Gapes Valley, Waipara, Godley Valley, Cass), Otago (St Bathans Range, Becks).

Also in Chile.

## HABITAT

Mainly East of the Main Divide on twigs of divaricating shrubs (*Discaria*, *Melicytus*) in subalpine grasslands.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** closely attached centrally, often raised at margins and lobe ends, 3-7 cm diam. **Lobes** 3-7(-10) mm broad, ± flat, broad and rounded, contiguous to imbricate. **Upper surface** olive-green to olive-brown or dark brown, smooth to weakly wrinkled at margins, often strongly wrinkled-plicate centrally, matt or slightly shining at lobe apices, sometimes with a scattered, light pruina, **pseudocyphellae** laminal, numerous, small, white, isidia and soredia absent. **Lower surface** pale tan to dark brown, smooth to wrinkled, moderately rhizinate. **Rhizines** ± concolorous with lower surface, to 1 mm long. **Apothecia** common, sessile or subpedicellate, concave, to 6 mm diam., margins entire, pseudocyphellate. **Ascospores** ellipsoid to cylindrical 8-15 × 5-8 µm.

**Chemistry:** TLC–, all reactions negative.

## SIMILAR TAXA

The presumed fertile counterpart of the sorediate species *Melanohalea inactiva*.

## SUBSTRATE

Corticolous



Locally abundant, corticolous on *Discaria toumatou* with *Teloschistes velifer* and *Usnea*, Arthur's Pass Canterbury. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 28/11/2023, Licence: CC BY.



Locally abundant, corticolous on *Discaria toumatou* with *Teloschistes velifer* and *Usnea*, Arthur's Pass Canterbury. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 28/11/2023, Licence: CC BY.

### **ATTRIBUTION**

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (28 December 2023). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features and Similar taxa sections copied from Galloway (1985) & Galloway (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/melanohalea-zopheroa/>