

Menegazzia inflata

SYNONYMS

Parmelia inflata

FAMILY

Parmeliaceae

AUTHORITY

Menegazzia inflata (Hillmann) P.James & D.J.Galloway

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

A very distinctive species often forming loose, straggling, entangled tufts or patches in tussocks (*Chionochloa* spp.) or at the base of subalpine shrubs (species of *Dracophyllum* and *Hebe* especially). The tubular lobes are vermiform and spotted or banded black or occasionally pure white. It is not easily mistaken for any other species in the genus.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Wellington (Ruahine Ra.). **South Island:** Nelson (St Arnaud Ra., Diamond Lakes, Mt Peel) Marlborough (Mt Fishtail, Mt Ellis), Westland (Kelly Ra.), Canterbury (Torlesse Ra.), Otago (Lake Mackenzie, Ocean Peak, Caples Valley, Dunstan Mts, Maungatua), to Southland (Dusky Sound, Fiordland, East Dome, Mt Burns). Close to or W of the Main Divide, eastwards to the foothill ranges of Canterbury and Otago. **Stewart Island:** (Mt Allen).

HABITAT

In alpine or subalpine grasslands.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus irregularly rosette-forming to ± straggling, decumbent, 8-12(-20) cm diam., loosely attached, terricolous or amongst basal branches of subalpine shrubs or tussocks. Lobes 1-5 cm long, 4-8 mm wide, tubular-inflated, hollow, ± terete, rarely flattened, sometimes ± erect, more usually decumbent, sparsely dichotomously branched, without adventitious lobules. **Upper surface** smooth, whitish or spotted black, with ± extensive blackened patches, apices brownish, matt. Perforations large 1-2.5 mm diam., rather sparse, not sorediate. **Lower surface** black or white-maculate, wrinkled, eperforate. **Apothecia** rare, pedicellate, cupuliform, 0.5-5 mm diam., disc shining, red-brown, epruinose, concave to plane to convex-deformed, exciple shining, wrinkled-faveolate, margins crenate-striate, concolorous with thallus. **Ascospores** 2 per ascus, 30-33(-45) × 18-20 µm, wall 3 µm thick.

Chemistry: Stictic, constictic, norstictic (tr.) and menegazziaic acids and an accessory substance; medulla K+ yellow → orange, C-, KC+ orange, Pd+ orange.



Mt Somers, Canterbury. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 22/09/2019, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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SIMILAR TAXA

Not easily mistaken for any other species in the genus.

SUBSTRATE

Terricolous or muscicolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (26 June 2021). Information in the Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features and Similar taxa 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/menegazzia-inflata/>