

Micarea prasina

FAMILY

Pilocarpaceae

AUTHORITY

Micarea prasina Fr.

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Squamulose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous/terricolous habit; the pale- to dark-green thallus of densely aggregated goniocysts (gelatinous when moist); subglobose to tuberculate, whitish, greyish, to blackish apothecia, 0.1–0.4 mm diam.; oval–ellipsoidal to oblong, simple to 1-septate ascospores, 8–17 × 1–4 (–5) µm; and pycnidia producing mesoconidia and microconidia.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island. South Island.

Known also from Great Britain, Europe, the Azores, Canary Is, Scandinavia, North America, South America, Africa and Australia. The most common and variable species of the genus.

HABITAT

On bark, plant debris, soil, rotten stumps, soil in rock crevices, occasionally also on other lichens (*Sticta filix*, *S. latifrons*).



Liginicolous, Waikereru Gisborne.
Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken:
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Liginicolous, Waikereru Gisborne.
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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus pale-green, or pale to dark grey-green, often ±gelatinous when moist, of thinly scattered to densely aggregated ±globose goniocysts. **Goniocysts** 12–40(–60) µm diam., the outer hyphae often coated with a greenish K+ violet pigment. **Photobiont** cells 4–7 µm diam. **Apothecia** 0.1–0.4(–0.6) mm diam., shallow-convex to subglobose to tuberculate, whitish, pale- to dark-grey, brownish grey or blackish; true exciple poorly developed. **Hymenium** 25–50 m high; epithecium colourless or dull-greenish, K+ violet. **Hypothecium** colourless to dull-yellowish.

Paraphyses 0.5–1 µm wide, expanded to 1.5 µm at apices. **Asci** 26–40(–50) × 8–12 µm. **Ascospores** ovoid–ellipsoidal to oblong, simple to 1(–3)-septate, 8–14(–17) × 2.3–4(–5) µm. **Pycnidia** white, or greyish around ostiole (due to greenish K+ violet pigment): (1) 50–120 µm diam., emergent to sessile, the ostiole often gaping, with ±cylindrical to narrowly obpyriform mesoconidia, (3.5–)4–6 × 1–1.5 µm; (2) 30–60(–100) µm diam., usually immersed, with cylindrical or narrowly fusiform microconidia, (5–)5.5–8 × 0.5–1 µm.

Chemistry: Thallus K–, C–, KC–, Pd–; containing up to three unidentified compounds.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to other members of the genus but separated by the nature of the spores and chemistry.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, lignicolous, terricolous, lichenicolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (5 October 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features sections copied from Galloway (2007).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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/micareas-prasina/>