

Normandina pulchella

COMMON NAME

Elf ears lichen

SYNONYMS

Verrucaria pulchella

FAMILY

Verrucariaceae

AUTHORITY

Normandina pulchella (Borrer) Nyl.

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Squamulose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

A characteristic species recognised by the corticolous/lichenicolous habit; the small scattered, ear-like squamules (×10 lens) with a raised margin; concentric ridges on the upper surface; and the presence of soralia.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Three Kings Islands, Spirits Bay, Radar Bush, Great Barrier Island, Woodhill Forest), Auckland (Piha), Gisborne (Whanarua Bay) to Wellington (Kaimanawa Ranges). **South Island:** Nelson to Southland. **Stewart Island. Auckland Islands.**

Widely distributed, although often overlooked because of its small size. Known also from Great Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, Macaronesia, Cape Verde Islands, Africa, Asia, Oceania, North and South America and Australia.

HABITAT

Common in humid, shaded habitats on decaying vegetation, tree bark, rarely on rock and quite often on the surface of other lichens, especially *Heterodermia*, *Pannaria*, *Notoparmelia*, *Parmotrema*, *Physcia*, *Pseudocyphellaria* and *Sticta*. It also appears to tolerate moderate pollution in urban environments, being commonly recorded from the bark of inner city trees (along with pollution-tolerant species such as *Austroparmelina labrosa* and *Physcia adscendens*), and in one instance from the bark of *Metrisideros excelsa* close to a source of sulphur dioxide near a fertiliser factory in New Plymouth.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus of small, cochleate squamules, scattered or forming colonies, corticolous, saxicolous, foliicolous or lichenicolous. **Squamules** 1-2 mm diam., **upper surface** glaucous, pale greenish or greenish-grey, concentrically ridged, margins entire, slightly raised and inrolled, **soredia** present on surface and at margins, greenish, farinose.

Lower surface ecorticate, tomentose, pale.

Chemistry: TLC–, all reactions negative.



Corticolous on manuka bark, Grey Lynn Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 18/04/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Growing over bryophytes, Dome Valley Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 21/03/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, saxicolous, foliicolous or lichenicolous

ETYMOLOGY

pulchella: Pretty little thing

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (24 December 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features 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/normandina-pulchella/>