

# Ochrolechia apiculata

## FAMILY

Ochrolechiaceae

## AUTHORITY

Ochrolechia apiculata Versegghy

## FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Crustose

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## DISTRIBUTION

Originally described from coastal rocks in the North Island of New Zealand, but it also occurs in similar situations in the South Island.

## HABITAT

Coastal rocks.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** crustose, saxicolous, to 150 mm wide and 0.2 mm thick, rimose-areolate to irregularly verrucose and warted, corrugated or rarely granulose; upper surface white, pinkish white or grey-white, usually pruinose, C+ red; prothallus marginal, white. **Apothecia** 1–3 mm wide, broadly adnate but soon sessile and constricted at the base; margins to 2 mm wide, white, smooth to wavy, warted or pustulate, whitepruinose, the cortex C+ red; **disc** shallowly concave to plane, scabrid, white-pruinose, C+ red. **Hypothecium** colourless to pale yellow-brown, 65–80 µm thick. **Epithemium** brown to dark brown, 30–40 µm thick.

**Hymenium** colourless, 140–200 µm thick, not interspersed, I+ blue. **Asci** basally apiculate, with 8 or fewer spores (2, 3, 4 or 6). **Ascospores** broadly ellipsoidal to weakly pyriform, 50–[56.8]–65 × 32–[34.5]–40 µm.

**Chemistry:** gyrophoric acid [major] and lecanoric acid [minor] in both the apothecia and thallus. **Spot tests:** Thallus C+ red; amphithecium cortex C+ red, medulla C+ red at least in part; disc C+ red.

## SUBSTRATE

Saxicolous

Galloway (2007) synonymised this species with *Ochrolechia tartarea* (L.) A.Massal. (Fletcher *et al.* 2009), but the latter does not occur in Australia or New Zealand (McCarthy *et al.* 2017).

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (10 January 2024). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features sections copied from Galloway (2007).



Locally common, saxicolous on coastal boulders above high tide with Pertusaria, Whangārei Heads Far North. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 27/12/2023, Licence: CC BY.



Locally common, saxicolous on coastal boulders above high tide with Pertusaria, Whangārei Heads Far North. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 27/12/2023, Licence: CC BY.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Fletcher A., James P.W., Purvis O.W. 2009: *Ochrolechia* A.Massal. (1852). Pp. 626–631 in Smith C.W., Aptroot A., Coppins B.J., Fletcher A., Gilbert O.L., James P.W., Wolseley P.A. (eds), *The Lichens of Great Britain and Ireland*. The British Lichen Society, London.
- Galloway D.J. 2007: *Flora of New Zealand: Lichens, including lichen-forming and lichenicolous fungi*. 2nd edition. Lincoln, Manaaki Whenua Press. 2261 pp.
- McCarthy P.M., Elix J., Kantvilas G., Archer A. 2017: Additional lichen records from Australia 83. *Australasian Lichenology* 80: 62–77 pp.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ochrolechia-apiculata/>