

Ochrolechia pallescens

SYNONYMS

Lecidea implicata, *Lichen pallescens*, *Ochrolechia californica* f. *crenata*

FAMILY

Ochrolechiaceae

AUTHORITY

Ochrolechia pallescens (L.) A.Massal.

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

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; whitish or cream or greyish, continuous, wrinkled, irregularly warted or granular to diffract-areolate thallus; large (2–3 mm diam.), scattered apothecia with entire, swollen margins and densely white-pruinose discs (C+ rose); and ovoid ascospores, 49–58 × 25–30 µm.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Te Pahi, Awanui Swamp, Poor Knights Islands, Whangarei, Tokatoka), Auckland (Rangitoto), South Auckland (Moerangi), Hawke's Bay (Ball's Clearing), Wellington (Silica Springs Track, Ohakune, Desert Road, Kapiti Island, Rimutaka Ranges). **South Island:** Nelson (Kaihoka Lakes, Cobb Lake), Marlborough (Resolution Bay), Canterbury (Arthur's Pass, Broken River), Otago (Rees Valley, Silver Peaks), Southland. **Stewart Island:** (Islet Cove Port Pegasus).

Widely distributed in the Northern Hemisphere, being known from Great Britain, W Europe, Scandinavia, Asia, Mexico, Chile, Hawai'i, Marquesas, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island, and Australia

HABITAT

On bark of trees in forest, especially *Avicennia marina*, *Coprosma*, *Leptospermum scoparium*, *Nothofagus solandri* var. *cliffortioides* [*Fuscospora cliffortioides*], *Weinmannia racemosa* and in subalpine scrub (*Dracophyllum longifolium*) and maritime scrub. Associating commonly with *Buellia griseovirens*, *Lecidella elaeochroma* and *Menegazzia neozelandica*.



Kennedys Bush, Port Hills, Christchurch.
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Kennedys Bush, Port Hills, Christchurch.
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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus whitish or cream, rarely greyish, to 0.5 mm thick, continuous, wrinkled, diffract-areolate, irregularly warted or granular, warts swollen, in orbicular patches 3-6(-10) cm diam., corticolous. **Apothecia** sessile, 2-3 mm wide, round to irregular, disc concave to plane, scabrid, densely white-pruinose, pinkish-yellow or buff-coloured beneath pruina, margins white, 0.4-0.5 mm thick, entire, swollen. **Ascospores** 6-8 per ascus, ovoid, 49-58 × 25-30 µm.

Chemistry: Cortex K-, C+ rose, KC+ rose, Pd-; apothecial disc K-, C+ rose, KC+ red, Pd-; containing gyrophoric acid.

SIMILAR TAXA

Ochrolechia pallescens is distinguished from *O. thelotremoides* (the only other corticolous member of the genus) by its ±continuous wrinkled, diffract-areolate or verrucose thallus and ovoid, 49-58 × 25-30 µm ascospores, whereas *O. thelotremoides* has a discontinuous, papillate or granular-uneven thallus, and ascospores that are oblong and 25-35 × 7-9 µm in size.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

ETYMOLOGY

pallescens: Rather pale

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (16 March 2022). 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/ochrolechia-pallescens/>