

# Ochrolechia xanthostoma

## SYNONYMS

*Porina xanthostoma* Sommerf., Kongl. Pertusaria *xanthostoma* (Sommerf.) Fr.

## FAMILY

Ochrolechiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Ochrolechia xanthostoma* (Sommerf.) K.Schmitz & Lumbsch

## 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 muscicolous/terricolous habit; a thin, smooth, marginally unzoned, continuous, to granular–papillate, ashy-grey, white to creamish white thallus; numerous, concolorous poriform verrucae with sunken ostioles surrounded by a pinkish or yellow-brown border; clavate asci (soon deliquescing) with usually 4 thin-walled, uniseriate or biseriate ascospores; and a KC+ red medullary reaction indicating the presence of alectoronic acid.

## DISTRIBUTION

**North Island:** South Auckland (Te Aroha). **South Island:** Nelson (Mt Aorere, St Arnaud Range), Marlborough (Mt Stokes), Canterbury (Sugarloaf Cass, Craigieburn Range, Torlesse Range, Godley Valley), Otago (Humboldt Mountains, Old Man Range, Poolburn Reservoir, Mt Pisgah, Rock & Pillar Range Deep Stream). **Stewart Island:** (The Paps, Cooks Arm Port Pegasus). **Campbell Island.**

First described from Norway, it is known also from Alaska, Greenland, Iceland, Scotland and Western Russia. In the Southern Hemisphere it is known from New Zealand, Tasmania and Macquarie Island.

## HABITAT

A distinctive muscicolous/terricolous species found in subalpine to high-alpine environments overgrowing dead tussock bases, mosses and both living (e.g. *Pentachondra pumila*) and decaying vegetation on exposed soils.



Terricolous on rock outcrop, Bank's Peninsula, Canterbury. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 08/11/2022, Licence: CC BY.



Terricolous on rock outcrop, Bank's Peninsula, Canterbury. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 08/11/2022, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** off-white, ashy-grey, white or creamish white, thin, continuous, to granular-papillate, surface smooth and dull, overgrowing dead tussock bases, mosses, detritus and soil. **Apothecia** verruciform, concolorous with thallus, flattened-hemispherical, constricted at base, sometimes concave above, (0.1–)0.5–1.0 mm diam.; ostioles inconspicuous, 1–4 per verruca, hyaline to pale-yellow, yellow-brown or pinkish. **Hypothecium** hyaline to brownish. **Epithecium** K–, pale to dark. **Asci** clavate, often deliquescing before ascospores mature, (140–)220(–320) × 30–85 µm. **Ascospores** 4 per ascus (rarely 6–8 per ascus), uniseriate or biseriate, ellipsoidal to cylindrical, but often deformed and found liberated from ascus, 65–85 × 35–40 µm, walls double, thin, 1–2 µm thick, the inner wall smooth.

**Chemistry:** Medulla UV+ ice-blue, K–, KC+ red, C– or + pink, Pd–; containing alectoronic acid (major), and ursolic acid (tr.).

## SUBSTRATE

Muscicolous, terricolous

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (10 January 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/ochrolechia-xanthostoma/>