

Parasiphula fragilis

SYNONYMS

Endocarpon fragile, Siphula fragilis, Sticta fragilis

FAMILY

Coccotremataceae

AUTHORITY

Parasiphula fragilis (Hook.f. & Taylor) Kantvilas & Grube

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Fruticose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the terricolous habit; the broad, thin, fragile lobes that are suffused reddish pink and with a uniformly smooth surface; and no secondary chemistry.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: South Auckland (Coromandel Ranges) to Wellington (Ruapehu, Tararua Range). **South Island:** Nelson (St Arnaud Range, Ngakawau, Mt Augustus above Stockton Plateau, Denniston Plateau), Marlborough (Mt Richmond), Westland (Mariner's Peak Moeraki River, Robinson's Creek Mataketake Range), Canterbury (Arthur's Pass, Beetham Valley, Malte Brun Range, Mt Peel), Otago (Mt Brewster Haast Pass, Mt Birman Blue River, Forgotten River, Park Pass, Sugarloaf Saddle, Harris Saddle), Southland (Mt Clerke, Resolution Island, above Cascade Cove Dusky Sound, Lake Wapiti). **Stewart Island:** (Mt Anglem, Glory Cove Paterson Inlet, Rakeahua, Tin Range, Deceit Peaks, Frazer Peaks, Port Pegasus).

Australasian. Also in Tasmania, Australia.

HABITAT

On damp alpine soils, often among mats of *Andreaea* in rock crevices frequently inundated by running water – commonly associated with other species of *Parasiphula* and *Siphula* such as *P. complanata*, *P. elixii*, *P. foliacea* and *S. dissoluta*.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus lobes thin and fragile, undulate, 3-8 mm wide and to 20 mm tall, margins entire, rounded or truncate.

Surface uniformly smooth, suffused reddish-pink, margins darker fawnish-pink to reddish, very rarely fenestrate, occasionally with tufts of pale, simple **rhizines** growing from lower surface in decumbent plants on exposed soil.

Chemistry: TLC–, all reactions negative.

SUBSTRATE

Terricolous



Denniston Plateau. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 18/11/2017, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (16 June 2023). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features 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/parasiphula-fragilis/>