

Parmotrema cristiferum

SYNONYMS

Parmelia cristifera

FAMILY

Parmeliaceae

AUTHORITY

Parmotrema cristiferum (Taylor) Hale

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous/saxicolous habit; its large, grey-white thallus; abundant, linear, rather sinuous marginal soralia; an absence of marginal cilia; and the presence of salazinic acid in the medulla (K+ yellow→red).

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland to Wellington (Hutt Valley). **South Island:**

Marlborough, Canterbury (Amberley Beach, Kelsey's Bush, Waimate), Otago (Oamaru, Saddle Hill, Black Head, Dunedin).

Pantropical. A common and widespread tropical epiphyte.

HABITAT

On bark and rock. Most common north of Taupō in coastal habitats but also reaching considerable size in northern forests on *Fuscospora* and *Agathis*.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus orbicular to spreading, large, 10-25 cm diam., loosely attached, corticolous and saxicolous. **Lobes** broad, rounded 12-20 mm wide, margins sinuous, sorediate, ± involute, marginal cilia absent. **Upper surface** pale greenish-grey or greyish-white, smooth, matt, minutely maculate (×10 lens), becoming irregularly cracked with age. Soralia linear, soredia fine, farinose, white. **Lower surface** black with a broad, brown, naked marginal zone. Rhizines sparse, black, simple. **Apothecia** not seen.

Chemistry: Cortex K+ yellow; medulla K+ yellow→dark-red, C-, Pd+ orange-red; containing atranorin, chloroatranorin, salazinic acid (major), and ± consalzinic acid (minor).

SIMILAR TAXA

Parmotrema cristiferum is a large, greyish-white lichen, characterised by abundant, linear, rather sinuous marginal soralia, an absence of marginal cilia and the presence of salazinic acid in the medulla. It resembles *P. perlatum* and *P. reticulatum*, all three being sympatric in some habitats. The two latter species however have prominent and numerous marginal cilia, and soralia which are often capitate-hooded or revolute and rarely linear-sinuous. *P. perlatum* also has a different chemistry. *P. reticulatum* is distinctly reticulate-cracked and not merely maculate as in *P. cristiferum*.



Saxicolous with apothecia. Photographer: Marley Ford, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Underside. Photographer: Marley Ford, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, saxicolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (5 August 2021). 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/parmotrema-cristiferum/>