

Peltigera lepidophora

FAMILY

Peltigeraceae

AUTHORITY

Peltigera lepidophora (Vain.) Bitter

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: SO, Sp

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the terricolous habit; the small, ±cochleate lobes growing directly on soil, and with a tomentose upper surface and scattered to crowded, laminal isidia.

DISTRIBUTION

South Island: Nelson (Mt Arthur), Canterbury (Castle Hill, upper Ashburton River, Rangitata Gorge, lower Godley Valley, Maitland Valley, Lake Ohau), Otago (Matukituki River), Southland (Eyre Mountains, Symmetry Peaks). Circumpolar in the Northern Hemisphere (North America, Europe, Asia), also in Hawai'i and South America where it is known from Argentina and Chile.

HABITAT

On sandy often calcareous exposed, gravelly, rather unvegetated soils and in sand of riverbeds and streams, in upland to alpine habitats, to 2000 m. Associating with *Arthrographis citrinella*, *Candelariella vitellina*, *Cladia aggregata*, species of *Cladonia*, *Lecanora epibryon* ssp. *broccha*, *Lecidella wulfenii* and *Rinodina olivaceobrunnea*. Moribund thalli sometimes colonised by *Candelariella vitellina*, *Lecidella wulfenii* and *Rinodina olivaceobrunnea*. In sand of riverbeds it occurs with soil-binding species of *Placopsis* such as *P. clavifera*, *P. hertelii*, *P. subparellina* and *P. trachyderma*. Still very poorly known in New Zealand.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus small, (0.5–)1–2(–4) cm diam., rounded, level with or slightly sunken into substratum. **Lobes** concave, often crowded, ±cochleate, rarely ±plane, 2–6(–8) mm diam. **Margins** entire, sinuous, ascending, ±inrolled. **Upper surface** dark slatey blue-black to brownish when wet, olive-brownish to red-brown when dry, coriaceous, thinly white-tomentose in parts, or ±glabrous centrally and tomentose only at margins; isidiate. Isidia small, 0.2–0.5(–1) mm tall, rounded, corticate, button-like at first, becoming lobed with age, pale to dark red-brown, scattered to densely crowded. **Lower surface** pale yellow-buff to greyish or brownish, roughly tomentose. Veins indistinct. **Rhizines** scattered, simple to ±fasciculate, pale-buff to brown, 1–2 mm long. **Apothecia** not seen.

Chemistry: TLC–, all reactions negative.

SIMILAR TAXA

It is similar in gross morphology to the juvenile, sorediate phase of *P. didactyla*, but is distinguished from it by the presence of isidia and an absence of soredia.

SUBSTRATE

Terricolous



ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (29 August 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, and Similar taxa 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/peltigera-lepidophora/>