

Peltigera neopolydactyla

FAMILY

Peltigeraceae

AUTHORITY

Peltigera neopolydactyla (Gyeln.) Gyeln.

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the terricolous/muscicolous habit; large, glabrous lobes with a ±billowed or bullate upper surface (best seen towards centre), entire margins; buff to dark-brown or black, flattened veins below (1.5–3(–4) mm wide), black or brown-black, simple to fasciculate rhizines (3–7(–10) mm long), and long, acicular spores (62.5–95 × 2.5–3 µm).

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Three Kings Islands to Kaipara Harbour), Auckland (Waitakere Ranges), South Auckland (Motuhora Island), Wellington (Tiritea). **South Island:** Westland (Fox Glacier, McArthur Flats Arawata River), Canterbury (Woodend Beach), Otago (West Matukituki, Old Man Range, Rock & Pillar Range, Maungatua, Swampy Summit, Taieri Mouth, Akatore), Southland (Milford Sound, Manapouri, Pukerau, Awarua Bay).

It is circumpolar, boreal to arctic in the Northern Hemisphere where it occurs in North America, Europe and Asia. New Zealand records are the first for the Southern Hemisphere.

HABITAT

On damp, often peaty soils, among mosses and debris or on rotting logs below forest trees, or in scrub associations; on damp rocks and among grass on roadside banks; among *Sphagnum* in bogs, s.l. to 1300 m.



In gravel carpark, Milford Sound Fiordland.
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In gravel carpark, Milford Sound Fiordland.
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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus large, orbicular to spreading, 3–8(–15) cm diam. Lobes linear to irregular 0.5–1.5 cm wide, 2–6 cm long. **Margins entire**, wavy, to minutely and irregularly notched or torn, slightly thickened below, without phyllidia or tomentum, rarely with tomentose apothecial initials. **Upper surface** glabrous, dark blue-black or slatey grey-black when wet, pale-grey to chestnut-brown or red-brown when dry, glossy or matt, smooth, undulate to ±billowed or bullate towards centre. **Lower surface** tomentose, whitish or buff at margins, soon becoming greyish, brown or blackened centrally. **Veins** broad, flattened to slightly raised, 1.5–3(–4) mm wide, greyish or grey-brown at margins, black or brown-black centrally, anastomosing; interstices white, lenticular to oval. **Rhizines** brown to black, simple to fasciculate, 3–7(–10) mm long. **Apothecia** common, erect, saddle-shaped; disc red-brown, matt, epruinose, inrolled; margins pale-buff, roughened, warted, soon disappearing, pale-buff, ridged, tomentose below. **Ascospores** colourless, acicular, 3–7-septate, (62.5–)70–90(–95) × 2.5–3 µm. **Chemistry**: Tenuiorin, methyl gyrophorate, peltidactylin, dolichorrhizin, zeorin and unidentified triterpenoids (minor).

SIMILAR TAXA

It is distinguished from *P. polydactylon* by the wider, flatter veins and the longer spores.

SUBSTRATE

Terricolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (3 September 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-neopolydactyla/>