

Peltigera rufescens

FAMILY

Peltigeraceae

AUTHORITY

Peltigera rufescens (Weiss) Humb.

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/saxicolous habit; a tomentose upper surface (often only at margins), upturned lobe margins and apices, frequently with phyllidia (in lowland forms especially), blackish confluent rhizines in \pm dense lines, and veins darkening abruptly from margins to centre. Exposed alpine forms are smaller and more caespitose than lowland forms, and have thicker more leathery lobes that are much more closely and complexly folded–crowded, with conspicuously grey-white margins and apices, possibly the result of erosion by wind-blown soil or stones.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Auckland (Waitakere Ranges), South Auckland (Ruakura, Huka Falls), Wellington (Tongariro National Park). **South Island:** Nelson (Lake Rotoiti), Marlborough (Wairau Valley), Canterbury (Arthur's Pass, Craigieburn Range, Mt Cook), Otago (Matukituki Valley, Coronet Peak, The Remarkables, Old Man Range, Gem Lake, Lake Onslow, Deep Stream, Mt Cargill), Southland (Kaiwera, Mavora Lakes). **Stewart Island:** (Moturau Moana, Golden Bay).

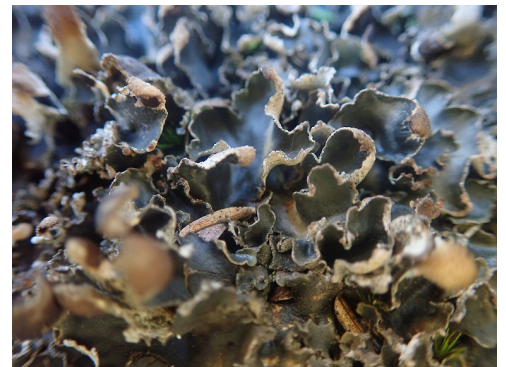
Cosmopolitan. Widespread in both Northern and Southern hemispheres.

HABITAT

On soil or among mosses, on roadside verges and banks, on old sand dunes, on stumps and decorticated wood, on rocks, and in alpine turf, generally in rather open situations, s.l. to 2000 m. Commonly associating with other cyanobacterial lichens such as *Coccocarpia palmicola*, *Peltigera didactyla* and *Massalongia carnosa*.



Terricolous in on riverbed, Cape Palliser South Wairarapa. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 03/07/2022, Licence: CC BY.



Terricolous in on riverbed, Cape Palliser South Wairarapa. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 03/07/2022, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus rosette-forming to irregularly spreading, 3–12(–30) cm diam. **Lobes** irregular, linear to rounded, 0.5–1.2 cm wide and 0.5–2.5(–3) cm long. **Margins** undulate-wavy, crisped, ascendent, often lobulate or phyllidiate, commonly tomentose, or scabrid, whitened, sometimes with small, fuzzy, brown-tomentose apothecial initials. **Upper surface** brownish or reddish brown, paler to ±whitish at margins and apices (in alpine forms often conspicuously eroded-white or greyish), tomentose at or near margins, glabrous centrally, matt or shining, smooth to undulate or ±bullate in parts, sometimes maculate at or near margins (×10 lens), rarely with small patches of glistening pruina towards centre. **Lower surface** tomentose, pale-buff or whitish at margins, dark-brown to blackening centrally. Veins 0.5–1 mm wide, rather flat, brown to dark-brown or black, anastomosing; interstices pale or whitish, lenticular. **Rhizines** simple at margins, soon becoming entangled–confluent, in ±dense lines along veins, pale-brownish or buff at margins soon dark-brown to black towards centre, 2–5 mm long. **Apothecia** saddle-shaped, 3–5 mm long, on short, marginal lobes; disc matt, epruinose dark red-brown to brown-black. **Ascospores** colourless, elongate–fusiform, 5–7-septate, (45–)50–60(–65) × 2.5–5 µm. **Chemistry**: TLC–, all reactions negative.

SUBSTRATE

Terricolous, saxicolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (29 August 2021). 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/peltigera-rufescens/>