

Peltigera ulcerata

FAMILY

Peltigeraceae

AUTHORITY

Peltigera ulcerata Müll.Arg.

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; the small, crowded, cochleate lobes having a glabrous, rather coriaceous upper surface and with prominent, marginal and laminal, ulcerose soralia containing coarse, granular grey-blue to red-brown soredia that are C+ red (gyrophoric acid).

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Auckland (Rangitoto Island), South Auckland (Karangahake Gorge, Te Kauri Park, Waihaha). **South Island:** Malborough (Seaward Valley), Canterbury (Arthur's Pass, Cass, Moa Creek, Mt Cook), Otago (Cluden Hill near Tarras, Alexandra, Teviot Valley).

A widespread pantropical and pantemperate species, originally described from Brazil. It is not yet known from Australia, but was recently recorded from Chile.

HABITAT

On soil, among moss or on tree trunks near the ground, in rather open, well-lit situations, s.l. to 1500 m.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus orbicular, small, 1–5 cm diam. **Lobes** crowded, concave, ±cochleate, 2–5(–10) mm diam., 5–25 mm long, to 250 µm thick. **Margins** entire, sinuous, to ±ascending, slightly thickened below, often downrolled, ±sorediate, occasionally lobulate, tinged brownish or brown-black. **Upper surface** glabrous, matt or glossy, pale greyish-green to olive-brown when wet, cinnamon-brown or yellowish, suffused brownish at margins when dry, sometimes ±red-brown, sorediate. **Soralia** laminal and marginal, at first rounded, 1–2(–5) mm diam., forming in breaks in upper cortex, eroding and becoming confluent-ulcerose; soredia coarse, granular, blue-grey at first becoming red-brown when mature, often totally eroding and exposing patches of pale medulla. **Lower surface** pale-buff or whitish, ±uniformly buff-tomentose at margins. **Veins** flat, broad to confluent, indistinct at margins, with small, white, oval to irregular, fibrous; interstices pale pinkish brown at margins, darkening centrally. **Rhizines** fasciculate, penicillate, solitary or in lines to ±clustered, 1–3 mm long, pale-buff at margins, darkening to brown-black centrally. **Apothecia** not seen.

Chemistry: Medulla TLC–, all reactions negative: soralia C+ red; containing methyl gyrophorate, ±gyrophoric acid.

SIMILAR TAXA

It is distinguished from *P. didactyla* by its smaller, thicker lobes and glabrous upper surface and the buff-brown lower surface and the morphology of the rhizines.

SUBSTRATE

Terricolous, muscicolous



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-ulcerata/>