

Pertusaria lavata

FAMILY

Pertusariaceae

AUTHORITY

Pertusaria lavata Müll.Arg.

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Crustose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the saxicolous (coastal rocks) habit; the flattened verrucae (often confluent); the 8, biseriate ascospores and the chemistry.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Moturoa Island, Whale Island, Bay of Islands, Broken Islands off Great Barrier Island).

Also in Queensland and New South Wales, including Lord Howe Island.

HABITAT

On coastal rocks.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus grey-white or pale greenish-grey, uniform, matt, areolate-cracked, areolae angular 0.2-0.6 mm diam., plane or minutely verrucose-irregular, saxicolous. **Fertile** verrucae scattered, smoothly rounded, hemispherical, 0.5-3.0 mm diam., ± shining, brownish-buff. **Apothecia** immersed, 1-3 per verruca, 0.2-0.4 mm diam., ostioles black, punctiform, minute. **Asci** clavate 8-spored, **Ascospores** biseriate, ellipsoid with pointed ends, 78.3-120 × 30-43.5 µm, wall 8-13 µm thick.

Chemistry: K-, KC-, C-, Pd-; containing 4.5-dichlorolichexanthone and 2'-O-methylperlatolic acid (Archer & Elix 1992: 426; 1994b: 17).

SIMILAR TAXA

It is distinguished from the chemically similar, 8-spored saxicolous *P. lophocarpa* Körb. by the conspicuous, raised verrucae and the smaller, uniseriate ascospores.

SUBSTRATE

Saxicolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (16 June 2023). Information in the Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, and Similar taxa sections copied from Galloway (1985, 2007).



Saxicolous on beach boulders, Doubtless Bay Far North. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 14/10/2022, Licence: CC BY.



Saxicolous on beach boulders, Doubtless Bay Far North. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 14/10/2022, Licence: CC BY.

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/pertusaria-lavata/>