

Pertusaria melaleucoides

SYNONYMS

Pertusaria galactina Zahlbr.

FAMILY

Pertusariaceae

AUTHORITY

Pertusaria melaleucoides 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: SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; asci with 2 ascospores; conspicuous black ostioles; and the absence of secondary compounds.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Bay of Islands) to Wellington (Feilding, Wellington). **South Island:** Otago (Matanaka).

Also in Australia where it occurs on mangroves in New South Wales.

HABITAT

On bark of lowland and often coastal shrubs, e.g. *Avicennia marina* subsp. *australasica*, *Coprosma* sp. and *Melicytus ramiflorus*.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus chalky white or grey-white, thick, wrinkled to irregularly areolate-cracked, margins effuse, indeterminate, matt, minutely papillate. **Fertile** verrucae rounded to subirregular 0.6-1.4 mm diam., hemispherical to ± conical, apex often flattened, concolorous with thallus. **Apothecia** immersed, 1-2 per verruca, ostioles carbonaceous, black, shining, surrounded by a narrow zone of pellucid tissue, internal tissues black. **Asci** 2-spored, endoascus well-developed, with a prominent apical dimple. **Ascospores** uniseriate, broadly ellipsoid with rounded ends, contents granular at first then hyaline 120-165.3 × 39.15-60 µm, wall 8.7-17.4 µm thick.

Chemistry: TLC–, all reactions negative.

SIMILAR TAXA

Superficially it resembles some species of *Lecidea*, but the large, double-walled ascospores easily distinguish it.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

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).



Corticolous on mangroves, Westmere Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 20/09/2021, Licence: CC BY.



Corticolous on mangroves, Westmere Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 20/09/2021, 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-melaleuroides/>