

Pertusaria puffina

FAMILY

Pertusariaceae

AUTHORITY

Pertusaria puffina A.W.Archer & Elix

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

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by a dull yellow, cracked thallus, numerous green-white discoid soralia and a distinctive chemistry, including orange fluorescence under UV.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Far North (Waimamaku), Kaipara Harbour, Auckland (Maungakiekie, Rangitoto Island), Hunua, and Waikato. **Chatham Islands.** Also in Thailand, Lord Howe Island, Eastern Australia, Papua New Guinea and India.

HABITAT

A coastal species, corticolous on mangroves (*Avicennia marina* subsp. *australasica*), pōhutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*), kānuka (*Kunzea* spp.) and puriri (*Vitex lucens*).

Appears to prefer high light environments, usually occurring on sheltered sides of the trunks and some branches of mature mangroves up to 2 metres above the ground. Lichens commonly associated with the species include *Crocodia aurata*, *Heterodermia japonica*, *Pannaria araneosa*, *P. elixii*, *Parmotrema perlatum*, *P. reticulatum*, *P. subinctorium*, *Pertusaria melaleuroides*, *P. psoromica*, *P. sorodes*, *Physcia tribacoides*, *Pyrenula sexocularis*, *Sticta squamata* and *Usnea rubicunda*.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus dull yellow, thin, cracked, smooth and glossy. **Isidia** absent. **Soralia** numerous, scattered, white to greenish white, disciform, 0.4–1.0 mm diam. **Apothecia** not seen.

Chemistry: Thallus K+ pale yellow, KC–, C–, Pd–; containing 2,4-dichlorolichexanthone (major), 2,5-dichlorolichexanthone (major), 2,4,5-trichlorolichexanthone (major), stictic acid (major), 2-chlorolichexanthone (minor) and constictic acid (minor).

SIMILAR TAXA

Few other *Pertusaria* species can be mistaken for *P. puffina*, although the isidiate species *P. subsidiosa* A.W.Archer has a similar chemistry.



Corticolous on pohutukawa, One Tree Hill/Maungakiekie Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 19/01/2023, Licence: CC BY.



Corticolous on pohutukawa, One Tree Hill/Maungakiekie Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 21/10/2021, Licence: CC BY.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (14 June 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features sections adapted from Er *et al.* (2015).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Er O.A.H.; Reynolds C.L. and Blanchon D.J. 2015: Additional lichen records from New Zealand 49. *Pertusaria puffina* A.W.Archer & Elix. *Australasian Lichenology* 77: 28-31.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pertusaria-puffina/>