

Pertusaria spilota

FAMILY

Pertusariaceae

AUTHORITY

Pertusaria spilota A.W.Archer & Malcolm

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Crustose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Data Deficient

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; the scattered, inconspicuous, markedly flattened verrucae; the 8-spored asci; and the absence of secondary chemistry.

DISTRIBUTION

South Island: Nelson (Mt Arthur, Murchison, Matakītaki west bank road), Canterbury (North of Cass). Recently observed at Misty Peaks Reserve on Banks Peninsula (Ford 2022).

HABITAT

On bark of *Fuscospora menziesii* and *F. cliffortioides*, in montane beech forest. Probably more widely distributed than records presently show.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus off-white to pale-grey, thin, cracked or effuse, surface smooth and dull, without isidia or soredia. **Apothecia** verruciform, strongly flattened-hemispherical, scarcely rising above thallus surface, scattered, conspicuous, grey-black to greenish, 1–2 mm diam.; ostioles inconspicuous, black, 0.05–0.1 mm diam., 1–2 per verruca. **Ascospores** 8 per ascus, ellipsoidal, smooth, uniseriate, (50–)60–65(–75) × 25–30 μm.

Chemistry: TLC–, all reactions negative.

SIMILAR TAXA

It is distinct from *P. albissima* Müll.Arg., which also has 8-spored asci and no chemistry, but numerous, conspicuous verrucae.

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 *Coprosma propinqua*, Banks Peninsula Canterbury. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 08/11/2022, Licence: CC BY.



Corticolous on *Coprosma propinqua*, Banks Peninsula Canterbury. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 08/11/2022, Licence: CC BY.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Ford M. 2022: iNaturalist observation. <https://inaturalist.nz/observations/152895869>. Date accessed: 16 June 2023.
- 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-spilota/>