

# Phaeophyscia orbicularis

## SYNONYMS

Lichen orbicularis

## FAMILY

Physciaceae

## AUTHORITY

Phaeophyscia orbicularis (Neck.) Moberg

## 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 corticolous/saxicolous habit; the adnate thallus; laminal, capitate to eroded soralia; apothecia sometimes with sorediate margins; and ascospores  $18-26 \times 7-11 \mu\text{m}$ .

## DISTRIBUTION

**North Island:** Northland (Whangarei) to Wellington. **South Island:** Canterbury (Christchurch), Otago (Dunedin), Southland (Invercargill, Awarua).

Known also from Great Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, North America, Africa, and Australia.

## HABITAT

Throughout in urban areas on bark of introduced deciduous trees along roadsides and in parks and gardens; also on bird perching rocks in inland areas; and on old iron, and asbestos and fibrolite roofing materials of fertiliser works in Whangarei and New Plymouth and Awarua. It appears to be tolerant of moderate to heavy levels of atmospheric pollution.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** orbicular, to 3 cm diam., sometimes confluent with other thalli,  $\pm$  closely attached. **Lobes** radiating, to 1 mm wide, overlapping or indistinctly separated. **Upper surface** pale grey to dark brown, sometimes yellowish (skyrin), sorediate. **Soralia** laminal or marginal,  $\pm$  capitate, sometimes spreading and covering large areas of thallus, white or yellowish (skyrin). **Lower surface** black, rhizinate. **Rhizines** simple, occasionally projecting beyond lobe margins. **Apothecia**  $\pm$  central, rarely towards lobe apices, to 1.5 mm diam., with or without rhizines on lower side. **Ascospores**  $18-26 \times 7-11 \mu\text{m}$ .

**Chemistry:** TLC–, all reactions negative; or occasionally with traces of skyrin (K+ purple).



Saxicolous lichen on pasture boulders, Whangarei, Northland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 09/11/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Saxicolous lichen on pasture boulders, Whangarei, Northland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 09/11/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## **SUBSTRATE**

Corticolous, saxicolous, artificial surfaces (iron, asbestos and fibrolite roofing materials)

## **ATTRIBUTION**

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (18 February 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features sections copied from Galloway (1985, 2007).

## **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/phaeophyscia-orbicularis/>