

Phyllopsora furfuracea

SYNONYMS

Lecidea furfuracea

FAMILY

Ramalinaceae

AUTHORITY

Phyllopsora furfuracea (Pers.) Zahlbr.

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Crustose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; its small, isidiate squamules; apothecia with a yellow-brown to orange crystalline material; medium-sized ascospores; and furfuracein.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Three Kings Islands), Wellington (Greatford) (Galloway 2007). Also observed in the Waikatō (near Huntly) (Hutchison 2022). **South Island:** Recently recorded in Canterbury (Pigeon Bay, Banks Peninsula) (Knight 2019). Still very poorly collected in New Zealand. Pantropical. Known also from North, Central and South America, the Caribbean, East Africa, Madagascar, Thailand, Java, and Australia.

HABITAT

On coastal *Metrosideros excelsa* and *Melicytus*. Also recorded on tree privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*) in the Waikatō (Hutchison 2022).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus effuse, formed by prothallus and partly by minute areolae that often fuse and form a continuous crust, and partly by isidia developing directly from prothallus, isidia often dominating. **Prothallus** indistinct to well-developed, white to reddish brown. **Areolae** adnate, to 0.1 mm diam., isodiametric, plane to weakly convex, medium-green to dark-green, glabrous or rarely pubescent at margins. **Isidia** usually abundant, medium-thick, often long, medium-green to dark-green, often with a brownish tinge, glabrous, simple to coralloid-branched. **Apothecia** common, to 2 mm diam., round to irregular, usually conglomerate, convex, pale-brown to dark reddish brown, immarginate or with an indistinct often slightly paler, glabrous or pubescent margin. **Exciple** pale-brown, containing colourless crystals, dissolving in K. **Hypothecium** with yellow-brown to orange crystals, dissolving and diffusing pale-yellow to red or purple in K. **Hymenium** yellow-brown, 60–70 µm. **Ascospores** simple, cylindrical to short-fusiform, (6–)9–12 × 2–2.5 µm.

Chemistry: Furfuracein (Brako 1991: 46).

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous



On tree privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*) in the Waikatō. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 23/02/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.



On tree privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*) in the Waikatō. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 23/02/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ETYMOLOGY

furfuracea: From the Latin furfur 'bran' or 'dandruff', referring to the mealy, scurfy covering on the leaves and stems.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (15 June 2023). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features sections copied from Galloway (2007).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brako L. 1991: *Phyllopsora* (Bacidiaceae). *Flora Neotropica, Monograph 55*: 1-66.

Galloway D.J. 2007: *Flora of New Zealand: Lichens, including lichen-forming and lichenicolous fungi*. 2nd edition. Lincoln, Manaaki Whenua Press. 2261 pp.

Hutchison M. 2022: iNaturalist observation. <https://inaturalist.nz/observations/108482696>. Date accessed: 15 June 2023.

Knight A. 2019: iNaturalist observation. <https://inaturalist.nz/observations/24489084>. Date accessed: 15 June 2023.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/phyllopsora-furfuracea/>