

# Physcia adscendens

## COMMON NAME

Hooded rosette lichen

## FAMILY

Physciaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Physcia adscendens* (Fr.) H.Olivier

## FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Fruticose

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous/lignicolous/saxicolous habit; the long, white cilia on the lobe margins; and by the terminal, inflated lobe apices with helmet-shaped soralia.

## DISTRIBUTION

**North Island:** Northland (Whangarei) to Wellington. **South Island:** Nelson to Southland. **Chatham Islands:** (Big Bush).

One of the most catholic and widespread of lichens in New Zealand, and one able to withstand moderate to heavy amounts of atmospheric pollution (Johnson *et al.* 1998).

It is one of the most widespread of lichens and known also from Great Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, the Arctic, Israel, Turkey, the Ukraine, Asia, North, East and South Africa, North and South America, Hawai'i, and Australia.

## HABITAT

Very widely distributed on both native and introduced trees and shrubs, but especially common on fruit trees and ornamental trees in gardens and along roadsides, and on both basic (limestone) and acidic (basalt, greywacke, schist) rocks, on concrete asbestos sheeting, shade cloth, bitumen of footpaths and little-used roads, gravestones (often very well developed on both horizontal and vertical surfaces, and on surrounding concrete coping), iron railings, and sawn, treated wood (fenceposts, railings, gates etc.) and on old painted surfaces.



On rock, Kaikoura. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 13/11/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Motukānuka Scientific Reserve. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 09/11/2019, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** orbicular or confluent with other thalli, ± loosely attached, to 5 cm diam., corticolous, rarely saxicolous. **Lobes** variable, sometimes long and narrow, sometimes shorter and broader with long, terete, concolorous marginal cilia. **Upper surface** smooth, matt, greyish-blue to greenish-white. **Soralia** helmet-shaped, usually expanding on the underside forming rounded elevations visible from the upper side, soredia coarse, granular, white or greenish-white. Lower surface white to pale brown with sparse, blackened rhizines. **Apothecia** (not seen in New Zealand material) to 2 mm diam., disc often white-pruinose. **Ascospores** 16-23 × 7-10 µm. Pycnidia immersed. Conidia 4-6 × 1 µm.

**Chemistry:** Upper cortex K+ yellow; medulla K-; containing atranorin.

## SIMILAR TAXA

It is the only member of the genus with marginal cilia.

## SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, saxicolous, lignicolous (fence posts), artificial surfaces (concrete, asbestos sheeting, shadecloth, bitumen, roads, gravestones, iron railings, fenceposts, railings, gates)

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (16 March 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, and Similar taxa 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.
- Johnson P.N.; Burrows L.E.; and Galloway D.J. 1998: Air pollution indicators. Summary report of main findings. Sustainable Management Fund Project No. 5003. *Landcare Research Contract Report LC9899/004* for the Ministry for the Environment. 42 pp. <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/withyou/funding/smf/results/5003.pdf>.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/physcia-adscendens/>