

Physma byrsaeum

SYNONYMS

Parmelia byrsaea Ach.

FAMILY

Pannariaceae

AUTHORITY

Physma byrsaeum (Ach.) Tuck.

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, SO, Sp

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; the brownish, olive-green to greyish, glaucous-blue or blackish, strongly wrinkled, plicate-ridged, minutely maculate ($\times 10$ lens) thallus, turgid and expanded when moist, leathery and wrinkled when dry; sessile, laminal or occasionally marginal apothecia to 2.5 mm diam., the disc red-brown, glossy, waxy, without tomentum; and colourless, simple ascospores, $13\text{--}14 \times 8\text{--}9 \mu\text{m}$, with a thick perispore.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Church Road Scenic Reserve, Waiwera), South Auckland, Gisborne (Waioeka Gorge), Hawke's Bay. **South Island:** Marlborough (Chetwode Islands).

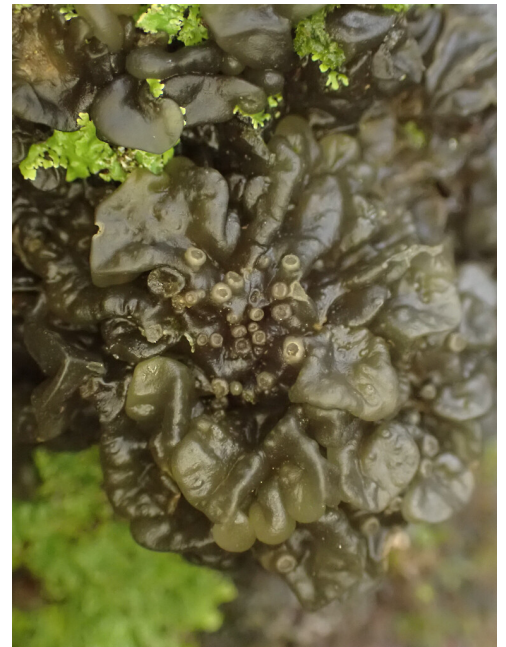
Widespread in the tropics: Africa, tropical America, Asia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Oceania, and Australia.

HABITAT

Inland and coastal lowland localities in humid, low-light, forest habitats. Among mosses on bark of *Cordyline australis*. Still very poorly known and collected here.



Corticolous, Waima Far North. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 20/06/2023, Licence: CC BY.



Corticolous, Waima Far North. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 20/06/2023, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus foliose, lobate ± rosette-shaped, to 10 cm diam., corticolous. **Lobes** radiating, 25 mm long and 2-12 mm wide, margins thickened, rounded, sinuses circular often deeply incised. **Upper surface** brownish or olive-green to greyish or glaucous blue to blackish, darker centrally, strongly wrinkled, faveolate, plicate-ridged, minutely maculate (X 10 lens) or minutely wrinkled-faveolate, sometimes smooth and shining in parts. **Lower surface** woolly, black, densely rhizinate to margins. **Rhizines** very short, squarrosely branched, black or pale. **Apothecia** common, sessile, laminal or occasionally marginal, to 2.5 mm diam., disc plane, red-brown, shining, waxy, imperforate, without tomentum, margins thick, to 0.5 mm wide, minutely wrinkled, leathery. **Ascospores** 8 per ascus, colourless, ellipsoidal, 13-14 × 8-9 µm, with a thick epispore.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to *P. chilense* but with epruinose margins and a smooth epruinose thalline exciple.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (January 2024). 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.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/physma-byrsaeum/>