

# Physma chilense

## SYNONYMS

*Physma tricolor* Zahlbr.

## FAMILY

Pannariaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Physma chilense* Hue

## 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 habit (on small twigs); the bluish grey thallus which is pliable when wet, rigid when dry, the margins often white-pruinose; the bright-red or red-brown apothecial discs with white-pruinose margins; and ascospores, 16–20 × 12–15 µm.

## DISTRIBUTION

**North Island:** Northland (Radar Bush), South Auckland (Te Aroha, Mangaotaki Valley Pio Pio, Waihaha, West Taupo) to Wellington (Tiritea Stream Palmerston North, Wairarapa coast, Pinnacles Gorge). **South Island:** Nelson (Lake Rotoiti, Maruia River, Rahu Swamp), Westland (Karamea to Jackson Bay and Cascade Valley).

Known also from southern Chile and Juan Fernandez, Victoria and Tasmania.

## HABITAT

Common on riverine shrubs and trees W of the Main Divide. It is mainly a twig species (on *Carpodetus*, *Coprosma propinqua*, *Dacrydium cupressinum*, *Dodonaea viscosa*, *Pennantia corymbosa* etc.) though will also colonise bark. Lowland, coastal and inland in damp, humid habitats in moderate to deep shade.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** foliose, lobate, spreading to 4 cm diam., corticolous. **Lobes** 2 mm wide, crowded, subimbricate, margins thickened, pectinate, incised, wavy, often white-pruinose. **Upper surface** yellowish, green-brown to plumbeous-blue, blue-black at margins and often with patches of white pruina, finely wrinkled in long, parallel striations, not reticulate or maculate, often very slightly tomentose, tomentum short, golden-brown. **Lower surface** pale, whitish or creamish to yellow-brown, tomentose, ecorticate, rhizinate. **Rhizines** pale, short, often tufted or in brownish vein-like structures. **Apothecia** sessile or subpedicellate, laminal, occasionally marginal, to 2 mm diam., disc bright red or red-brown, shining, epruinose, plane to subconvex, margins thick, crenate, roughened, dark bluish and often white-pruinose. **Ascospores** simple, colourless, 16–20 × 12–15 µm.



Corticolous in grey scrub, Waihaha Pureora.  
Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken:  
02/06/2019, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Corticolous, Kaweka's Hawkes Bay.  
Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken:  
15/07/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.

### **ATTRIBUTION**

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (25 January 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features sections copied from Galloway (1985) & Galloway (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-chilense/>