

# Placopsis gelida

## COMMON NAME

Bulls eye lichen

## SYNONYMS

Lichen gelidus

## FAMILY

Trapeliaceae

## AUTHORITY

Placopsis gelida (L.) Linds.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Placodioid

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by neat, thalline rosettes; large central, deeply plicate cephalodia without pruina; eroding soralia generally delimited by a sharply defined and slightly raised margin, either scattered and discrete to confluent and covering much of the thallus; farinose greenish to green-grey soredia; and rather rare, scattered apothecia.

## DISTRIBUTION

**South Island:** Otago (Flagstaff, Mt Cargill, Mt Teviot, Blue Mountains), Southland (Stirling Point, Bluff).

Bipolar. Known also from both Northern and Southern Hemispheres where it has a wide distribution, being recorded from Great Britain and Ireland, Scandinavia, Iceland, Greenland, Europe, Macaronesia, North America, Siberia, and Java. Also recorded from Hawai'i and Australia. In South America it is known from Venezuela, Bolivia, and from the far south of Chile and Argentina.

## HABITAT

On rock outcrops from s.l. to 1000 m.



Banks Peninsula. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 23/06/2019, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Banks Peninsula. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 23/06/2019, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** determinate, effigurate, ± lobate at margins, orbicular at first becoming confluent, spreading in a crust, to 8 cm diam., saxicolous, very rarely muscicolous. **Marginal lobes** closely to ± loosely attached, contiguous, separated by cracks to 0.1 mm wide, 1.5–2.5 mm long or extending to centre of thallus, areolate-cracked centrally, apices uneven, rounded or crenulate, sometimes with a narrow, olive-brownish peripheral zone. **Upper surface** ± areolate-cracked, areolae irregularly angular, ± swollen or plane, 0.6–2 mm diam., glaucous, whitish, creamish or olive brownish, smooth, matt, epruinose, sorediate. **Soredia** scattered, central, rounded or radially elongate, eroded or plane, often irregularly confluent, granular, olive-greenish or whitish. Isidia absent. **Cephalodia** discrete, central in young thalli, scattered in older plants, sessile, 1–3(–8) mm diam., orbicular, radially folded and cracked, yellow-brownish to red-brown, matt. **Apothecia** rare, scattered, sessile, orbicular, 0.8–2 mm diam., thalline margin thick, prominent, entire, matt, proper margin occasionally visible, thin, entire, pinkish-red or brown, disc plane, smooth or minutely scabrid, dark pinkish to yellow-brown or red-brown, often white-pruinose, matt. **Hymenium** 110–200 µm tall, pale sordid yellowish or granular-nubilated in upper part. **Hypothecium** colourless or faint pinkish. **Ascospores** uniseriate or subbiseriate, ellipsoid, 12–20 × 6–13 µm. **Pycnidia** immersed in slight swellings, ostioles brown-black, 0.1 mm diam. **Conidia** filiform, straight or curved, 15–27 × 0.5 µm.

**Chemistry:** Thallus K–, C+ red, KC+ red, Pd–; containing gyrophoric acid.

## SUBSTRATE

Saxicolous

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (16 June 2023). 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.
- Galloway D.J. 2013: The lichen genera *Aspiciliopsis*, and *Placopsis* (Trapeliales: Trapeliaceae: Ascomycota) in New Zealand. First published by Magnolia Press, in Auckland. *Phytotaxa* 120(1): 1–194.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/placopsis-gelida/>