

Placopsis lateritioides

FAMILY

Trapeliaceae

AUTHORITY

Placopsis lateritioides I.M.Lamb

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the rosette-forming to irregularly spreading, rusty-orange-coloured thallus; and the grey-blue, scattered soralia.

DISTRIBUTION

South Island: Nelson (Mt Arthur, St Arnaud Range, Mt Lakeman), Canterbury (Phipps Peak, Temple Basin, Arthur's Pass, Craigieburn Range, Two Thumbs Range, Sebastopol, Mt Cook National Park, Mt Peel), Otago (Mt Ida, Swampy Hill, Flagstaff Hill Dunedin).

HABITAT

On exposed subalpine to high-alpine rocks, 650-2,000 m. Associating with *Placopsis bicolor*, *P. dennanensis*, *P. gelidioides*, *Umbilicaria cylindrica*.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus determinate, effigurate, orbicular to irregularly spreading, to 6 cm diam., saxicolous. **Marginal lobes** swollen, expanded at apices, rounded, crenate, discrete or becoming confluent, usually separated by narrow cracks, extending into centre of thallus, lobes also transversely cracked, wrinkled or folded. **Upper surface** distinctly rust-red to orange-brown, epruinose, areolate centrally, areolae swollen, rounded to irregular, 0.5-2 mm diam., isidia absent, sorediate. **Soredia** sparse to numerous, grey-white, erumpent, subrotund, to 2 mm diam., forming abraded patches on areolae. **Cephalodia** sparse, rounded to irregular, or radially lobate, 2-5 mm diam., brownish-red, dull, epruinose. **Apothecia** not seen. **Pycnidia** immersed in areolae, ostiole minute, punctiform. **Conidia** filiform, straight or curved 13-16 × 0.5 µm.

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

SUBSTRATE

Saxicolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (February 2023). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features sections copied from Galloway (1985, 2007).



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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/placopsis-lateritioides/>