

Porpidia albocaerulescens

COMMON NAME

Smokey-eyed boulder lichen

SYNONYMS

Huilia albocaerulescens, Lichen albocaerulescens

FAMILY

Lecideaceae

AUTHORITY

Porpidia albocaerulescens (Wulfen) Hertel & Knoph

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Crustose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the saxicolous habit; the thick, pale-greyish thallus; sunken apothecia with a densely white-pruinose disc; large ascospores, 18–23 × 7.5–9 µm; and stictic acid in the medulla.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Three Kings Islands), Auckland (Rangitoto Island) to Wellington on both east and west coasts. **South Island:** Nelson (Kaihoka Lakes), Marlborough (Kaikoura) to Westland (Bruce Bay). Known also from Europe, E North America, and SE Asia including Indonesia. It is not known from the Mediterranean area (including Macaronesia), the oceanic parts of Western Europe, Great Britain or Fennoscandia.

HABITAT

A lowland species, commonly collected from maritime rocks.

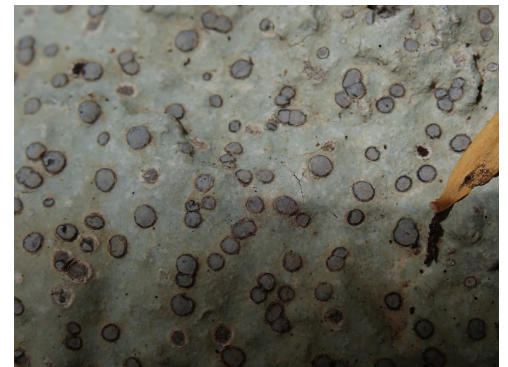
DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus thick, whitish-chalky, in circular patches or spreading on pebbles and stones, 2-5(-8) cm diam., minutely verrucose-uneven, areolate-cracked centrally, ± placodioid at margins. **Apothecia** frequent, immersed to sessile, scattered 0.5-3.5 mm diam., disc concave to plane to sub-convex, blue-black to black, finely white-pruinose, margins thin or thick, black or blue-black, persistent, crenulate. Epithecium olive-brown or brown-black to 15 µm thick. Hymenium colourless, 80-120 µm. Hypothecium very well developed, dark brown to black. Paraphyses delicate, 1.5 µm thick, capitate at apices, to 3 µm thick. Excipulum with relatively narrow brown-black marginal zone. **Ascospores** ellipsoid, 13-18(-22) × 6-8.5 µm.

Chemistry: Cortex K-, C-, Pd-; medulla K+ yellow, C-, Pd + orange; containing stictic (major), constictic (minor), norstictic (minor or tr.) acids. A chemodeme with norstictic acid (major) and connorstictic acid (minor) is also recorded.



On boulder, Kerikeri Falls track, Northland.
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On boulder, Kerikeri Falls track, Northland.
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SUBSTRATE

Saxicolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (3 September 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, and Extra information 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/porpidia-albocaerulescens/>