

Protoblastenia rupestris

COMMON NAME

Chewing gum lichen

SYNONYMS

Lichen rupestris

FAMILY

Psoraceae

AUTHORITY

Protoblastenia rupestris (Scop.) J.Steiner

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Crustose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: RR, SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the saxicolous (basicolous substrata) habit; the scurfy, areolate, greenish grey, grey-white to greenish brown or orange-grey thallus (often absent); sessile, to semi-immersed dull-orange, biatorine apothecia (K+ purple); and simple ascospores.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Auckland (Henderson). **South Island:** Canterbury (Castle Hill), Southland (Sharks Tooth, Springhills near Forest Hill).

Known from Great Britain, Europe, the Canary Islands, Scandinavia, Greenland, Svalbard, the Balkans, Asia, North America, and Tasmania.

HABITAT

Common on calcareous paving stones in and around Auckland, elsewhere on limestone.

Still very poorly known and collected in New Zealand. It should be searched for on limestone and other basicolous substrata such as mortar, cement, asbestos, concrete, and calcareous sandstone. In the Northern Hemisphere it is an important indicator of calcareous substrata and is often frequent in urban environments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus greenish-white to greenish-grey, smooth, irregularly cracked, often lacking or immersed. **Apothecia** sessile or subimmersed, 0.3-0.8 mmdiam., disc dull orange-red (K+ purple). **Ascospores** ellipsoid, simple, 8-15 × 5-8 µm.

Chemistry: Disc K+ purple; containing parietin, emodin, teloschistin, fallacinal and parietinic acid.

SUBSTRATE

Saxicolous

ETYMOLOGY

rupestris: From the Latin rupes 'rock, cliff', meaning growing in rocky places



On concrete, Mt Eden Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 31/01/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.



On concrete, Mt Eden Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 31/01/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (23 December 2021). 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/protoblastenia-rupestris/>