

Pseudocyphellaria argyracea

SYNONYMS

Sticta argyracea

FAMILY

Peltigeraceae

AUTHORITY

Pseudocyphellaria argyracea (Delise) Vain.

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; a white medulla, a cyanobacterial photobiont; scattered, laminal, white pseudocyphellae; and clustered pseudoisidia developed at lobe apices and margins, and around margins of laminal pseudocyphellae.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: South Auckland (Pureora). **South Island:** Nelson (Lake Rotoiti to Lewis Pass), Westland (Grey River), Marlborough (Stephens Island, Kaikoura), Canterbury (Alford Forest, Mt Peel), Otago (Hampden, Flagstaff). **Stewart Island.**

Known also from East Africa, India, Thailand Japan, the palaeotropics, southern South America, East Australia and Tasmania.

HABITAT

In medium- to low-light habitats, on rocks, among bryophytes and ferns, and on trunks of forest trees and shrubs, including *Dracophyllum*, *Kunzea*, *Melicytus ramiflorus* and *Fuscospora cliffortioides*.



Upper surface, Peel Forest Canterbury.
Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken:
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Corticolous, Peel Forest Canterbury.
Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken:
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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus ±rosette-forming, orbicular, 1–5(–10) cm diam., corticolous or saxicolous, closely attached to bark or rocks, loosely attached and ±free when on twigs or among mosses. **Lobes** irregularly lacinate to broadly rounded, 3–10(–20) mm diam., 1–3 cm long, ±discrete to imbricate. **Margins** sinuous, often slightly revolute and very slightly ridged below, entire or minutely crenate-incised, usually delicately isidiate. **Upper surface** livid grey-blue or grey-black, very minutely mottled (×10 lens) when moist, pale olivaceous-grey to red-brown when dry, plane, undulate or minutely and irregularly wrinkled, smooth or minutely roughened, fragile, sorediate and isidiate, without maculae or phyllidia. **Pseudocyphellae** laminal, scattered, punctiform, becoming sorediate, to 3 mm diam., ulcerose, round to irregular, flat to convex, soredia white, coarsely granular. **Pseudoisidia** minute, styliform, terete, simple to coralloid, at first clustered at margins of pseudocyphellae and at apices and margins of lobes, in some specimens spreading more widely to form a diffract-coralloid crust, dark brown, mainly corticate, rarely sorediate below or occasionally forming expanded and flattened regenerating lobules. **Medulla** white. Photobiont *Nostoc*. **Lower surface** pale fawnish or pinkish white, shallowly wrinkled or pitted, ±densely tomentose from centre to margins, tomentum whitish, silky, entangled, rather shaggy. **Pseudocyphellae** very rare or absent, minute, white, punctiform, best seen near margins. **Apothecia** not seen.

Chemistry: 7β-acetoxypopane-22-ol, hopane-7β, 22-diol (tr.), hopane-15α,22-diol, methyl gyrophorate and gyrophoric acid (C+ pink, fleeting).

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to other members of the genus but distinguished by the pseudocyphellae that develop isidia at the margins.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (27 February 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, and Similar taxa sections copied from Galloway (2007).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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/pseudocyphellaria-argyracea/>