

Pseudocyphellaria corbettii

FAMILY

Peltigeraceae

AUTHORITY

Pseudocyphellaria corbettii D.J.Galloway

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: DP, SO, Sp

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by broadly rounded lobes; marginal phyllidia; a rather coriaceous, yellow upper cortex; a white medulla; a green photobiont; a densely tomentose lower surface with conspicuous, white pseudocyphellae; and a distinctive chemistry of two hopanes, the stictic acid aggregate and usnic acid. It is related to the taxa *P. glabra*, *P. freycinetii* (South America), *P. homoephylla* and *P. soredioglabra* (Tasmania).

DISTRIBUTION

South Island: Nelson (Red Hills), Canterbury (Mt Faust above Boyle River), Otago (Poolburn Reservoir, Lake Onslow), Southland (Symmetry Peaks above Lake Wakatipu).

Known also from Juan Fernandez.

HABITAT

Most commonly a subalpine to high-alpine grassland species in high-light habitats with sufficient moisture, often developed on south-facing slopes, also known as an epiphyte of subalpine shrubs.



Flat Top Hill, Alexandra. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 20/11/2019, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus orbicular to irregularly spreading, 5–10(–20) cm diam., corticolous or muscicolous or terricolous (among grasses), closely attached centrally, free and ascending at margins and apices. **Lobes** broadly rounded 0.5–2.5 mm diam., discrete at margins, imbricate centrally, plane to irregularly undulate-concave and appearing somewhat cochleate. Margins entire in part to \pm irregularly and shallowly crenate or lacerate, becoming phyllidiate, sinuous, ascending in parts in others \pm revolute, slightly thickened, sinuses prominent, semicircular. **Upper surface** lettuce-green with a yellowish tinge when moist, pale-greenish or greyish yellow or buff, apices suffused red-brown when dry, smooth or minutely wrinkled or impressed, matt, in places with minute, solitary or clustered pale-fawnish dots or papillae, somewhat coriaceous, without soredia, isidia, maculae or pseudocyphellae. Phyllidia mainly marginal, rarely laminal along breaks or tears, 0.5–1 mm tall, solitary to densely clustered, dorsiventral, rarely somewhat terete, simple, bifurcating to \pm coralloid, cuneate, flabellate to \pm pectinate, upper surface concolorous with thallus, apices often inflated, brownish, lower surface pale-buff or brown, glabrous or occasionally with small, white, fleck-like pseudocyphellae. Medulla white. Photobiont green. **Lower surface** pale-whitish or yellow-buff, glabrous in a \pm wide marginal zone, darkening centrally and there densely tomentose, tomentum pale-buff to brown, thick, woolly, ragged, entangled, cortex smooth to slightly wrinkled-ridged. Pseudocyphellae white, scattered, minute, fleck-like close to margins, prominent, excavate, 0.5–1.5 mm diam., round to irregular centrally, often with a prominent margin, sunk in tomentum, decorticate area plane or somewhat concave, white, granular. **Apothecia** and pycnidia not seen.

Chemistry: 7 β -acetoxyhopane-22-ol, hopane-7 β , 22-diol (tr.), hopane-15 α ,22-diol, norstictic, stictic, cryptostictic, constictic, hyperstictic (tr.) and usnic acids.

SUBSTRATE

Saxicolous, Corticolous (shrubs).

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (3 March 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat and Features 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-corbettii/>