

# Pseudocyphellaria episticta

## SYNONYMS

*Sticta episticta*, *Lobaria episticta*

## FAMILY

Lobariaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Pseudocyphellaria episticta* (Nyl.) Vain.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by linear-elongate, deeply indented, rather ragged lobes with lacerate-crenate, crisped margins that are densely coralloid-isidiate; a pseudocyphellate upper surface the pseudocyphellae sometimes associated with marginal phyllidia; a white medulla; a green photobiont; apothecia with irregularly phyllidiate margins; a red-brown epithecium turning rose-pink and dissolving in K; and a chemistry of two hopane acids.

## DISTRIBUTION

**North Island:** Northland (Whangarei) to Cook Strait. **South Island:** Spasmodically from Nelson (N of Westport), Canterbury (Lewis Pass, Banks Peninsula, Mt Peel) and E Otago (Lamb Hill, Waikouaiti, Green Island, Saddle Hill, Flagstaff, Catlins), Southland (Longwood Range).

## HABITAT

Mainly lowland and coastal in damp, humid habitats of moderate illumination close to forest margins, from tree trunks, coastal rocks and rocks in tussock grassland, s.l. to 800 m.



Peel Forest, Canterbury. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 01/03/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** orbicular to spreading, loosely to closely attached, rather ragged, 8-12(-20) cm diam. **Lobes** ± linear-elongate, or sometimes rounded, margins deeply indented, ragged, isidiate-lobulate, often ascending, rather fragile.

**Upper surface** bright lettuce-green when wet, pale greyish-green to pale fawn when dry, smooth, undulate to ± wrinkled, matt or shining, with numerous, white, minute, punctiform pseudocyphellae, isidiate, without soredia or maculae. Isidia delicate, flattened, coralloid-branched, rarely ± terete, finger-like, marginal at first then laminal.

**Medulla** white. **Photobiont** green. **Lower surface** pale buff to whitish and glabrous at apices, ± uniformly brown-tomentose in older parts. Pseudocyphellae white, scattered, sparse to numerous, sunk in tomentum, to 1 mm diam.

**Apothecia** rare, scattered, subpedicellate, disc dark redbrown, matt, epruinose, concave to plane, to 2 mm diam., margins pale, corrugate-scabrid at first, crenate-coronate with age, exciple massive, pale flesh-coloured, corrugate-scabrid. **Ascospores** colourless to pale yellowish, oblong-fusiform, 1-3-septate, 30 × 7 µm.

**Chemistry:** Two chemodemes present. (i): 7β-acetoxypopan-22-ol, hopane-15α, 22-diol, and two unidentified compounds. (ii): 15α-acetoxy-22-hydroxypopan-24-oic acid, 15α-22-dihydroxy-24-hopanoic acid.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Pseudocyphellaria episticta* is distinguished from *P. lividofusca* by the more fragile, narrow, lacinate lobes with lacerate, isidiate margins. *P. psilophylla* occasionally has superficial pseudocyphellae but these result from fractured isidia, and this latter species is readily distinguished from *P. episticta* by its pinkish-buff, glabrous lower surface.

## SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, saxicolous

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (30 November 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, and Similar taxa 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/pseudocyphellaria-episticta/>