

Pseudocyphellaria intricata

COMMON NAME

starry night lichen

SYNONYMS

Sticta intricata, *Sticta intricata* f. *subargyracea*, *Sticta limbata* var. *subflavida*, *Stictina intricata* var. *subargyracea*, *Stictina limbata* var. *subflavida*

FAMILY

Lobariaceae

AUTHORITY

Pseudocyphellaria intricata (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

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by irregularly lacinate to broadly rounded lobes with sinuous, incised or partly entire, often sorediate margins; a plane, undulate to minutely wrinkled or subfaveolate, rather coriaceous upper surface, with scattered erose, laminal and marginal soralia containing coarsely granular, often pseudoisidiate, grey-white to white soredia; a white medulla; a cyanobacterial photobiont; a pale yellow-buff to chocolate-brown, tomentose lower surface, with occasional to rare, widely scattered, white pseudocyphellae immersed in tomentum; and a simple two-hopane chemistry with traces of tenuiorin and methyl gyrophorate.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Radar Bush) to Cook Strait. **South Island:** Nelson to Southland. **Stewart Island:** (Oban to Port Pegasus). Throughout, both E and W of the Main Divide, s.l. to 1150 m.

Also known from oceanic environments in Great Britain, France, Norway and the Faroe Islands, Macaronesia, Tristan da Cunha, the Caribbean, the palaeotropics from South Africa to Hawai'i, Australia, Tasmania and South America.

HABITAT

It is primarily a forest species, growing on bark, among other lichens, and in very damp, shaded habitats, among mosses on twigs of shrubs. It is tolerant of a wide range of light regimes, being found in dense shade and from rocks exposed to full sunlight at forest and scrub margins in areas of moderate to high rainfall. Generally it is a good indicator of humid habitats.



Stony Bay, Coromandel. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 05/09/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Kahurangi National Park. Photographer: Marley Ford, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus orbicular to irregularly spreading, loosely attached, corticolous or saxicolous, to 20 cm diam. **Lobes** very variable, broad, sparsely incised, to narrow, linear-lacinate, margins entire to deeply incised, often sorediate. **Upper surface** shining, dark brown to pale yellowish-buff, often with a bluish-lilac tinge, or reddish-brown, smooth to ± reticulate-faveolate, sorediate, without isidia, maculae or pseudocyphellae. **Soredia** farinose to coarsely granular, whitish to grey-blue or mauve, in ± linear marginal lines or in rounded, laminal, pustular soralia. **Medulla** white. Photobiont blue-green. **Lower surface** tomentose to margins, tomentum thick, felted, pale to dark chocolate-brown, pale brown and ± glabrous in a narrow zone at lobe apices. Pseudocyphellae white, scattered, rather sparse, sunk in tomentum. **Apothecia** not seen. It may be parasitised by the lichenicolous fungus **Arthrorhaphis grisea*. **Chemistry**: Tenuiorin (tr.), methyl gyrophorate (tr.), 7β-acetoxyhopan-22-ol, hopane-7β, 22-diol (tr.), hopane-15α,22-diol.

SIMILAR TAXA

Pseudocyphellaria intricata can look similar to *Sticta limbata*, but *S. limbata* has cyphellae on the lower surface (rather than pseudocyphellae) and the thallus is more monophyllous (less divided).

Galloway (1985) stated "*Pseudocyphellaria intricata* as at present circumscribed probably represents more than one taxon in New Zealand, although until further collections and additional field studies are made the various entities are combined in one aggregate species. Large-lobed, thick, coriaceous individuals with a mustard-yellow upper surface and coarse grey-blue soralia are referable to *Sticta limbata* var. *subflavida* and may well constitute a separate species. The typical form of *P. intricata* has a red-brown to pale brown upper surface often with a bluish tinge and with ± linear, marginal and scattered laminal, white soralia. In addition there is a very thin, dark red-brown species found in very damp, shaded habitats, resembling a species of *Nephroma*."

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, saxicolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (9 July 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features 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-intricata/>