

Pseudocyphellaria multifida

SYNONYMS

Sticta multifida Nyl., *Sticta subvariabilis* Nyl., *Lobaria subvariabilis* (Nyl.) Hellb., *Pseudocyphellaria subvariabilis* (Nyl.) Vain., *Cyanisticta subvariabilis* (Nyl.) C.W.Dodge, *Sticta psilophylla* f. *amphicarpa* Müll.Arg.

FAMILY

Peltigeraceae

AUTHORITY

Pseudocyphellaria multifida (Nyl.) D.J.Galloway & P.James

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by very variable, rather delicate lobes, rarely broadly rounded to more usually narrow and highly divided, entangled-imbricate, the margins ragged-incised to lobulate or richly phyllidiate; a smooth, undulate or shallowly wrinkled upper surface, with occasional white maculae towards margins, and occasional to densely developed, simple, squamiform, palmate-coralloid to straplike phyllidia; a white medulla; a green photobiont; a pale whitish, glabrous, glossy, smooth or shallowly wrinkled lower surface with a usually poorly developed, thin, short, velvety tomentum centrally, and scattered, white, fleck-like pseudocyphellae, most noticeable at margins; and a two-hopane chemistry.

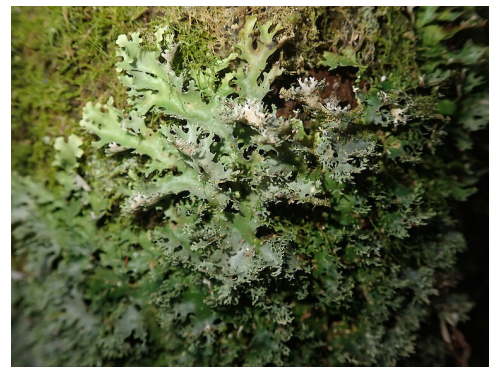
DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (lat. 35°S) to Cook Strait. **South Island:** Nelson to Southland both East and West of the Main Divide. **Stewart Island:** (North coast to Port Pegasus), **Auckland Islands.** **Campbell Island.**

Known also from Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, East Australia and Tasmania.

HABITAT

Common and widespread, in a variety of habitats from deep shade on the forest floor to full sunlight at forest margins and in scrub associations, to subalpine tussock grassland, s.l. to 1560 m. As well as colonising tree trunks it is also found on twigs and branches and on mossy rocks. It has a wide altitudinal range, being found from coastal scrub and forest to rainforest close to the Main Divide, and above treeline in subalpine scrub and tussock grassland. It is absent from the driest areas and is best developed in cool, humid sites where it is often the dominant species of *Pseudocyphellaria*. It may be parasitised by the lichenicolous fungi *Arthonia epiphyscia*, *A. pseudocyphellariae* and **Corticifraga fuckelii*.



Corticolous on nikau, Ruawai Kaipara.
Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken:
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Corticolous on nikau, Ruawai Kaipara.
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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus small, delicate, entangled-complicate, spreading, 5(-10) cm diam. **Lobes** complexly branched, entangled-imbricate, narrow, 1-3 mm wide and 4-10 mm long, di- or trichotomously branching at centre, becoming narrower and ± lobulate-phyllidiate at margins, sinuses semicircular. **Upper surface** bright lettuce-green when wet, pale yellowish-green or fawn when dry, shining, smooth, very slightly faveolate or wrinkled, uneven, without soredia, isidia, maculae or pseudocyphellae. **Medulla** white. **Photobiont** green. **Lower surface** glabrous, white, shining at margins, yellowish-brown, ± costate centrally, thinly tomentose centrally, tomentum pale buff, thin, rather ragged. **Pseudocyphellae** minute, fleck-like, white, punctiform, conspicuous at or near lobe margins, flat, immarginate. **Apothecia** submarginal or laminal, sparse to frequent, sessile to subpedicellate, disc pale yellowish-red or brownish, 2-4 mm diam., smooth, matt, plane or subconcave, margins pale flesh-coloured, inflexed at first, becoming crenulate-dentate, thalline exciple pale, verrucose-areolate. **Ascospores** colourless to pale brown, oblong-fusiform, 1-3-septate, 22-30 × 7-9 µm.

Chemistry: 7β-acetoxypopan-22-ol, hopane-7β,22-diol (tr.), hopane-15α,22-diol.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to *Sticta martinii* but with pseudocyphellae and a glabrous to thin tomentose under surface.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, saxicolous (mossy rocks)

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (2 August 2022). 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/pseudocyphellaria-multifida/>