

Pseudocyphellaria punctillaris

FAMILY

Peltigeraceae

AUTHORITY

Pseudocyphellaria punctillaris (Müll.Arg.) 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: SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

In the field, *P. punctillaris* is recognised by the rather shortly, more or less subdichotomously branching lobes, white medulla, and the scabrid-areolate upper surface, blue-green photobiont and white pseudocyphellae present on both surfaces of the thallus.

DISTRIBUTION

Kermadec Islands: (Raoul Island). **North Island:** Hokianga (Kahakaharoa).

Mayor Island (Tuhua).

A palaeotropical species known from Indonesia, the Philippines, New Guinea, Australia, Samoa and Hawaii.

HABITAT

At Kahakaharoa a specimen was noted growing on sand kānuka (<https://inaturalist.nz/observations/58921499>).



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Thallus underside. Photographer: Marley Ford, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus 50–150 mm diam., rosetteforming, closely attached from margins to centre. Lobes 5–12 mm wide, broadly rounded, contiguous or imbricate at margins, crowded-imbricate centrally. Margins entire, sinuous, broadly rounded at apices, becoming markedly lobulate-phyllidiate centrally, thickened and sometimes with the lower surface inrolled. **Upper surface** malachite-green some times glaucous-blue when wet, pale yellowish fawn to brownish (often with darker apices) when dry, undulate, conspicuously verrucose-scabrid, thick, coriaceous, without isidia, maculae or soredia. **Phyllidia** 0.2–1.5 mm diam., marginal, rarely regenerating from cracks on upper surface, lobulate, joined at base, simple to subcoralloid. Pseudocyphellae 0.1–1.5 mm diam., white, round to elongate, conical-verruciform, margins raised, decorticate area flat; numerous often crowded, conspicuous. **Medulla** white. **Photobiont** cyanobacterial. **Lower surface** pale yellowish white to buff at margins, cinnamon-brown to red-brown centrally, uniformly tomentose from margins to centre, tomentum thick, woolly, pale at margins, brownish or greyish centrally, often obscuring pseudocyphellae. **Pseudocyphellae** 0.1–1.0 mm diam., white, round to irregular, margins not raised, decorticate area flat or concave, granular; scattered, most noticeable at margins. **Pycnidia** 0.2–1.0 mm diam., common, prominent, swollen, marginal and laminal, solitary or crowded, ostiole red-brown, punctate. **Apothecia** 1–3 mm diam., sparse to frequent, submarginal and laminal, central rarely at lobe apices, sessile, constricted at base, round or deformed, shallowly concave to plane, exciple prominent, coarsely verrucose-scabrid, obscuring disc when young, persisting as a coarse, dentate-verrucose margin to disc at maturity, pale brownish, disc shining, slightly roughened, pale to dark red-brown, epruinose. **Epithecium** red-brown, 8–14 µm thick. **Hymenium** colourless 110–115 µm tall. **Ascospores** 1-septate, contents vacuolate, pale red-brown or yellow-brown, broad-ellipsoid, apices pointed or rounded, 25.0–28.0 × 8.5–11.0 µm.

SIMILAR TAXA

The species has an admittedly superficial resemblance to *P. argyracea*, which differs from *P. punctillaris* by its isidiate condition.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (21 September 2021). Brief description, Distribution, and Features sections copied from de Lange & Galloway (2015). Habitat adapted from Ford (2020).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- de Lange P.J., and Galloway D.J. 2015:. Lichen notes from the Kermadec Islands. I. Lobariaceae. *Bulletin of the Auckland Museum* 20: 141-170.
- Ford M. 2020: Vegetation survey of Kahakaharoa Dunes, Hokianga. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 75(2): 196.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pseudocyphellaria-punctillaris/>