

Psoroma caliginosum

FAMILY

Pannariaceae

AUTHORITY

Psoroma caliginosum Stirt.

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Squamulose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous (occasionally foliicolous) habit; the squamulose thallus developed on a black, minutely fibrous prothallus, sometimes extending 2–4 mm beyond marginal squamules; thalline squamules closely appressed, flattened, smooth, lobate-crenate, the margins whitish pubescent and appearing “frosted”; the large, placodioid cephalodia, to 3 mm diam., laminal or marginal on squamules or developing directly on prothallus; the ±central apothecia, with thick, inrolled, crenate-striate margins, and a matt, plane, dark-brown to black disc often obliterated by concentric rings of thalline tissue or with small thalline lobules; and large ascospores, (12–)17–24 × (9–)12–14 μm.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Tahurangi Bluff), Taranaki (Mt Taranaki), Wellington (Wellington). **South Island:** Nelson (Mt Robert) **Stewart Island:** (Port Pegasus). **Chatham Islands. Auckland Island. Campbell Island.** Known also from East Australia and Tasmania.

HABITAT

Throughout, widely distributed in mainly lowland and coastal habitats, s.l. to 1500 m, on trees and shrubs, rarely on rocks in damp, shaded habitats.



Corticolous on mānuka twig, Stewart Island.
Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken:
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Corticolous on mānuka twig, Stewart Island.
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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus squamulose, very closely attached to substrate, in ± rounded or closely spreading patches, 2-10 cm diam., on a fine, black, minutely fibrous, closely attached **prothallus** which may extend 2-4 mm beyond margins of squamules. **Squamules** very closely appressed, flattened, smooth, lobate-crenate, rounded and scattered at margins, becoming rosette-shaped 1-2 mm wide, coalescing into a closely attached, ± imbricate mosaic centrally, apices and margins of squamules slightly thickened, ± whitish pubescent, pubescence very short, minute, appearing “frosted”, pale greenish, yellow-green to brownish or pale glaucous, matt or ± shining, paler at margins, glossy, smooth. **Cephalodia** large, lobate-crenate, to 3 mm diam., flattened, placodioid, smooth to ridged-striate, pale blue-grey or blackened to bluish-brown, ± frequent at margins, laminal or marginal on squamules or growing directly on hyphae of prothallus, often concolorous with thallus when dry, with a faint blue-black cast. **Apothecia** sessile, closely attached to squamules or projecting above, ± central, sparse to numerous, round to irregular, 0.2-1.0 mm diam., margins thick, inrolled, striate-crenate, concolorous with thallus, disc matt, plane, dark brown or black, occasionally with small thalline lobules centrally or disc ± obliterated by concentric rings of thalline tissue, epruinose. **Ascospores** large, (12-)17-24 × (9-)12-14 µm.

Chemistry: TLC–, all reactions negative.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (29 January 2024). 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/psoroma-caliginosum/>