

Psoroma coralloideum

FAMILY

Pannariaceae

AUTHORITY

Psoroma coralloideum Nyl.

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Squamulose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; the squamulose thallus dispersed on a thin, black prothallus; squamules, flattened at margins, becoming congested, ascending and lacinate-coralloid centrally with apices lobulate and deflexed in a coralloid crust; cephalodia squamulose, crowded between thalline squamules, and often a dominant part of the biomass; apothecia plane to convoluted-irregular, 0.5–2.5 mm diam., the margins crenate-eroded, the disc chestnut-brown to red-brown, smooth, plane to undulate, with a wrinkled-corrugate to scabrid-areolate exciple; and ellipsoid ascospores, 15–21 × 8–10 µm.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Central NI (Pureora), Wellington (Ruapehu, Ruahine Ra.).

South Island: Nelson (St Arnaud Ra., Travers Valley), Canterbury (Boyle Rover, Arthur's Pass), Otago (Tautuku Bay).

HABITAT

On *Fuscospora* bark and on coastal trees and shrubs.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus squamulose, dispersed on a thin, black prothallus. **Squamules** flattened, small-foliose at margins, simple, flattened globose to ± stellate, coralloid to 1 mm wide, congested, ascending, lacinate-coralloid centrally, apices lobulate and deflexed, tightly packed in a coralloid crust, ± terete or laterally flattened, yellowish or greenish-buff, not pale green or whitish as in *P. asperellum*, matt to rather granular, faintly whitish-pubescent at apices.

Cephalodia pale blue or brownish-grey, crowded, squamulose, between thalline squamules. **Lower surface** white at margins, yellow-brown centrally, without thick tomentum, arachnoid, noticeably striate as in *Pannaria araneosum*, attached to substrate by medullary hyphae, rhizines absent. **Apothecia** sessile, plane, round at first, becoming convoluted-irregular with age, 0.5-2.5 mm diam., margins crenate-eroded, rather thick, disc chestnut-brown or red-brown, matt, smooth, plane to undulate, not pruinose, fissured or gyrose-etched, thalline exciple wrinkled-corrugate, areolate-scabrid. **Ascospores** 15-21 × 8-10 µm.

Chemistry: TLC–, all reactions negative.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous (bark)

ETYMOLOGY

psoroma: looks mangy or spotty

coralloideum: resembling coral

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (3 March 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features sections copied from Galloway (2007).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Galloway D.J. 2007: *Flora of New Zealand: Lichens, including lichen-forming and lichenicolous fungi*. 2nd edition. Lincoln, Manaaki Whenua Press. 2261 pp.

Taylor M., Bieleski R.L. and Allan H.H. 2002: Meanings and origins of botanical names of New Zealand plants. *Auckland Botanical Society Bulletin* 26.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/psoroma-coralloideum/>