

# Pulchrocladia retipora

## COMMON NAME

Coral lichen

## SYNONYMS

Baeomyces retiporus, Cladia retipora, Cladonia retipora

## FAMILY

Cladoniaceae

## AUTHORITY

Pulchrocladia retipora (Labill.) S.Stenroos, Pino-Bodas & Ahti

## FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Fruticose

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## DISTRIBUTION

Occurs widely throughout New Zealand, being particularly common on subalpine peat bogs.

**North Island:** Northland to Wellington. **South Island:** Nelson to Southland.

**Stewart Island. Chatham Islands. Auckland Islands. Campbell Island.**

**Antarctica.**

Also in SE Australia and New Caledonia.

## HABITAT

On peaty soils, among tussocks or low vegetation in *Leptospermum* and *Dracophyllum* heaths, at margins of *Fuscospora/Lophozonia* forest, in fellfield, more rarely on rocks, logs and sand dunes, s.l. to 1200 m. Often associated with the lichens *Rexiella sullivanii*, *Cladonia confusa*, and *Stereocaulon ramulosum*.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** large, robust, coralloid, in cushions 10-100 cm diam., terricolous or muscicolous. Primary thallus nodular, white, evanescent. **Pseudopodetia** dying at base, robust or slender, 1.5-5 mm diam., 2-5(-8) cm tall, white, pale greyish or faintly yellowish, often tinged pinkish and/or superficially blackened, pliant and spongy when wet, brittle when dry, cortex continuous, walls uniformly clathrate from base to apex, in 3-8 series forming an even network, perforations 5-11 per cm in each series. **Medulla** thin, white, arachnoid, loosely filling central canal, at apices of pseudopodetia visible as thin strands ( $\times 10$  lens). **Apothecia** minute, black, peltate, crowded on apical branchlets. **Chemistry:** Thallus K- or + yellow, C-, KC- or KC+ orange, Pd-; containing usnic protolichesterinic, ursolic, rangiformic and norrangiformic acids, atranorin, and unidentified terpenoids and other compounds.

## SUBSTRATE

Terricolous



Macraes Flat, Otago. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 31/10/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Bealey Valley, Arthurs Pass. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 12/11/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.

It is of considerable beauty, closely resembling lace or coral and is occasionally used in floral decoration, and in architectural models.

#### **ATTRIBUTION**

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (30 August 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, and Extra information 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. 2002. LICHEN PROFILE: *Cladia retipora* (Labill.) Nyl. *Botanical Society of Otago* 32. 4–9.
- 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/pulchrocladia-retipora/>