

Pyxine subcinerea

COMMON NAME

Mustard lichen

FAMILY

Caliciaceae

AUTHORITY

Pyxine subcinerea Stirt.

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 the corticolous/lignicolous/saxicolous habit; the yellow medulla; marginal soralia; subapical, glistening patches of pruina; and lichexanthone (UV+ yellow) in the medulla.

DISTRIBUTION

Kermadec Islands: Raoul Island (on *Araucaria**, *Citrus sinensis**, *Prunus* sp.*). **North Island:** Northland (Te Huka, Spirits Bay, Karikari Peninsula, Carpenter's Bay, Poor Knights Islands, Chicken Island, Little Barrier Island, Whangarei, Goat Island near Leigh), Auckland (Anawhata, Auckland Domain), South Auckland (Coromandel Peninsula, Great Mercury Island, Whale Island). **South Island:** Marlborough (d'Urville Island).

HABITAT

On bark of coastal trees and shrubs (*Casuarina**, *Coprosma*, *Corynocarpus laevigatus*, *Cordyline australis*, *Metrosideros excelsa*) and on introduced deciduous trees, fence posts in grassland, and occasionally on maritime rocks. Widespread in the tropics. Also in the Azores and Liguria in Italy, and in the eastern United States.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus closely attached, corticolous. **Lobes** pale greenish-grey to pale grey, plane, with marginal pseudocyphellae here and there pruinose subapically or more generally in pulverulent, glistening patches over upper surface. **Soralia** marginal, spreading onto upper surface, orbicular to irregularly ellipsoid excavate to \pm convex, soredia fine, granular, white to pale yellowish. **Medulla** pale straw-coloured to ochraceous-yellow. **Apothecia** not seen.

Chemistry: Cortex UV+ yellow; medulla K-, Pd-, UV-. TLC: Lichexanthone.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, lignicolous (fence posts), saxicolous (maritime rocks)

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (3 August 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, and Similar taxa sections copied from Galloway (1985, 2007).



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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/pyxine-subcinerea/>