

Ramalina australiensis

SYNONYMS

Ramalina myrioclada, *Ramalina allanii*

FAMILY

Ramalinaceae

AUTHORITY

Ramalina australiensis Nyl.

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Indeterminate

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Fruticose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous/saxicolous habit; long, narrow branches with denser branching towards apices; apothecia, when present, lateral; no chondroid strands in the medulla; and no secondary compounds in the medulla.

DISTRIBUTION

Kermadec Islands: (Raoul Island) **North Island:** Northland to Coromandel Peninsula and Bay of Plenty (Whale Island).

Common on northern offshore islands, with single records from Feilding and Wellington Harbour.

Known also from eastern Australia where it is found in coastal sites from southern Queensland to New South Wales, from Hawai'i, the Galapagos Islands, Guam and Norfolk Island.

HABITAT

Mainly on bark of *Metrosideros excelsa* and *Avicennia marina* subsp. *australasica*, occasionally also on *Agathis australis*, *Kunzea* and *Pseudopanax*. On offshore islands and coastal headlands *R. australiensis* also grows on rock (including andesite and greywacke).

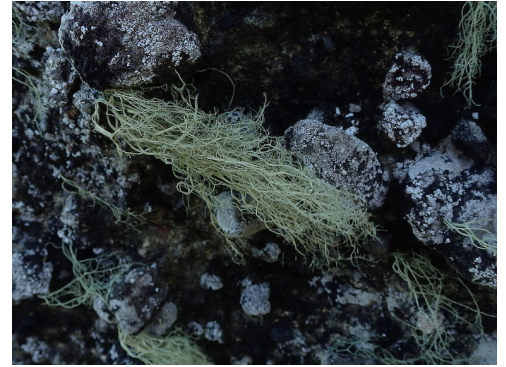
DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus erect to pendulous, to 12 cm rarely to 20 cm long, corticolous. **Branches** rigid, yellowish-green to greyish, angular-terete to slightly flattened, longitudinally striate-nervose, exposing white medulla, or cracked, shortly branched, narrow, 1.5 mm wide at base tapering to 0.5 mm wide at apices, lateral branches narrower, numerous, irregularly divided, subterete, apices finely flexed or bent, without pseudocyphellae or soredia, longitudinally ridged or grooved near base. **Apothecia** rare, lateral, sessile, plane, 0.9 mm diam., disc pale yellowish-pink, epruinose, margins thin, entire, concolorous with thallus, thalline exciple smooth. **Ascospores** oblong, 12-15 × 4-6 µm.

Chemistry: Usnic acid.

SIMILAR TAXA

Differs from *R. meridionalis* by the thallus being more densely branched at apices, many of the secondary branches at being right angles to main branches and the K- medulla.



On ultramafic cliffs, Piha Auckland.
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On ultramafic cliffs, Piha Auckland.
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SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, occasionally saxicolous

ETYMOLOGY

ramalina: Meaning small branches, twiggy.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (19 February 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, and Similar taxa 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. 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/ramalina-australiensis/>