

# Ramalina canariensis

## COMMON NAME

Inelegant strap lichen

## FAMILY

Ramalinaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Ramalina canariensis* J.Steiner

## FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Fruticose

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: SO, Sp

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous (rarely lignicolous/saxicolous) habit; palmate or irregular branching, the branches soft, splitting marginally as well as on lower surface to release soredia.

## DISTRIBUTION

**North Island:** Northland (Omanaia River, Taupo Bay, Castle Peak; Poor Knights Islands, Tokatoka), Auckland, South Auckland (Kaiaua, Firth of Thames; near Barryville, Coromandel Peninsula, Waikato), Wellington (Wanganui, Manawatu). **South Island:** Otago (coastal). **Chatham Islands** (Te Whanga Lagoon, Wharekauri).

Cosmopolitan. Known also from coastal Britain and Ireland, Europe (W Mediterranean), N along Atlantic coast to Norway, and S to Macaronesia, South Africa, Australia, California, Mexico and South America.

## HABITAT

On mānawa (*Avicennia marina* subsp. *australasica*), pōhutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*), tōtara (*Podocarpus totara* var. *totara*), and old peach trees (*Prunus persica*\*). Occasionally on coastal rocks and driftwood.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** erect, 0.8–3.5 cm long, from a well-delimited holdfast, branching palmate or irregular. **Branches** 1–3.5(–5) mm wide, apices blunt and usually split, the margins separating. **Surface** matt, smooth to wrinkled, pale green to grey-green, often reticulately ridged. **Soralia** marginal and apical, developing with the separation of the upper and lower surfaces. **Apothecia** very rare, marginal or on the lobe surface. **Ascospores** 15–21 × ca 6 μm, broadly ellipsoidal or kidney-shaped.

**Chemistry:** medulla and soralia C–, K–, KC–, Pd–, UV± blue-white (usnic and divaricatic acids).

## SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, occasionally saxicolous (on coastal rocks)



Corticolous on mānawa (*Avicennia marina* subsp. *australasica*). Photographer: Marley Ford, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Corticolous on mānawa (*Avicennia marina* subsp. *australasica*). Photographer: Marley Ford, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## ETYMOLOGY

**ramalina:** Meaning small branches, twiggy.

**canariensis:** From the Canary Islands

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (6 June 2021). Information in the Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features, sections copied from Galloway (2007). Apothecia description adapted from Fungi of Great Britain and Ireland (Anon., unknown date).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Anon. Unknown date: *Ramalina canariensis*. Fungi of Great Britain and Ireland.

<http://fungi.myspecies.info/all-fungi/ramalina-canariensis>

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-canariensis/>