

# Ramalina geniculata

## SYNONYMS

*Ramalina inflata* var. *gracilis*

## FAMILY

Ramalinaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Ramalina geniculata* Hook.f. & Taylor

## FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Fruticose

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous (occasionally saxicolous) habit; fully inflated branches with oval perforations; and convex apothecia.

## DISTRIBUTION

**North Island:** Northland (Houhura Harbour) to South Auckland (Waikato and Coromandel Peninsula), Hawke's Bay, Wanganui-Manawatu, Wellington.

## HABITAT

Best developed N of Auckland on both mainland and offshore island coastal sites, where it is found most commonly on mānawa (*Avicennia marina* subsp. *australasica*). Known also from tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*), *Crataegus*\*, kānuka (*Kunzea* sp.), *Lophomyrtus*, pōhutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*), *Phyllocladus*, *Pittosporum*, *Plagianthus*, tōtara (*Podocarpus totara*), *Populus* sp.\*, pine (*Pinus radiata*)\*, *Prunus* sp.\*, *Salix* sp.\* and also from rocks (especially on offshore islands).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** loosely tufted, to 3 cm tall, of dichotomously branched laciniae to 1.5 mm broad at base, narrowing to 0.3 mm wide at tips, slightly flattened or rarely subterete, smooth or in places obscurely faveolate but not canaliculate, ± fistulose, here and there with rounded holes, to 0.5 mm diam., exposing hollow cavity of interior, surface pale greenish-yellow or glaucous, shining, without soredia or pseudocyphellae. **Apothecia** numerous, subterminal or marginal, with a well-defined spur (geniculate), 1-3 mm diam., rounded, sub-pedicellate, thalline exciple smooth, disc plane or convex, pale yellow-pink with a thick glaucous-yellow pruina, margins concolorous with thallus, occluded in old fruits. **Ascospores** 6-8 per ascus, biseriate, straight or curved (10-)12-14 × 5-6 μm. **Chemistry:** Sekikaic and salazinic (tr.) acids. Two chemodemes present: (1) Usnic and sekikaic acid, ±divaricatic acid, and (2) usnic and divariactic acid, ±sekikaic acid.

## SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, occasionally saxicolous



Corticolous in mangroves/mānawa forest. Photographer: Marley Ford, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Saxicolous specimen. Photographer: Marley Ford, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**geniculata:** From the Latin geniculum 'knee', meaning 'on bended knee', often used in reference to plants with stems bent on an angle

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (17 June 2021). Information in the Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features and Similar taxa sections copied from Galloway (2007) and Bannister *et al.* (2004).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Bannister P., Bannister J.M. and Blanchon D.J. 2004: Distribution, habitat, and relation to climatic factors of the lichen genus *Ramalina* in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 121–138.

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-geniculata/>