

# Ramalina glaucescens

## SYNONYMS

*Ramalina leiodea* var. *condensata* Zahlbr.

## FAMILY

Ramalinaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Ramalina glaucescens* Kremp.

## 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

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous/lignicolous (rarely saxicolous) habit; rather variable thallus, size and form depending on habitat; branches flat to occasionally subterete and sometimes appearing almost inflated; pseudocyphellae rare; apothecia crowded, terminal or subterminal; and sekikaic acid in the medulla.

## DISTRIBUTION

**North Island:** South Auckland (Waikatao, Te Awamutu), Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, to Wellington (Wanganui – Manawatu, Rangatikei). **South Island:** Nelson to Southland, East of the Main Divide.

Also in South and East Australia and Tasmania.

## HABITAT

Most common in inland Otago and Canterbury. On bark of both introduced and native trees and shrubs, on fence posts, gates, bird nests, insect cases and rarely from rocks, s.l. to 1,650 m. The highest recorded specimen grows on a tanalised wooden snowfence on the summit of the Old Man Range at 1,650 m.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** erect to somewhat straggling, normally ± pulvinate, 1-3(-6) cm tall, holdfast somewhat indeterminate, comprised of fused bases of several branches, corticolous. **Branches** linear-lacinate, 1-3 mm wide, often appearing ± inflated- subterete when young, flat to subcanaliculate, pale yellowish or greenish or grey-yellow, glossy, smooth or minutely striate-corrugate or ribbed, or wrinkled-plicate, often longitudinally cracked or fissured near base, without laminal pseudocyphellae or soredia. **Apothecia** subpedicellate, marginal (1-)2-3(-4) mm diam., ± clustered towards apices of branches, geniculate, disc concave to plane, glaucous-yellowish or pinkish-yellow or glaucous-whitish, thinly white- pruinose, margin elevated, entire or subcrenulate, thalline exciple smooth or coarsely wrinkled-corrugate. **Ascospores** oblong, curved 11-17 × 4-6 µm.

**Chemistry:** Sekikaic, homosekikaic (tr.) ± lecanoric acids.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Ramalina inflexa* is similar but apothecia are 'rather rare' in that species, and are terminal, with a plane or convex, rarely concave disc.



Corticolous on kowhai, Christchurch.  
Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken:  
03/07/2020, Licence: CC BY.



On concrete fence post, Port Chalmers  
Dunedin. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date  
taken: 14/11/2019, Licence: CC BY.

## SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, lignicolous

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**glaucescens**: Becoming glaucous

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (4 August 2022). 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. 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-glaucescens/>