

# Ramalina ovalis

## SYNONYMS

*Ramalina celastri* subsp. *ovalis*

## FAMILY

Ramalinaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Ramalina ovalis* Hook.f. & Taylor

## FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Fruticose

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## DISTRIBUTION

**North Island:** New Plymouth, Palmeston North, Marlborough, Nelson.

**South Island:** Canterbury, Otago, Southland.

*Ramalina ovalis* is common in the drier areas of the eastern South Island of New Zealand, including inland Canterbury, Otago and Southland, and also occurs, but is less commonly found, in Marlborough, Nelson, Wellington, Palmerston North and New Plymouth.

Also recorded this species (as *R. celastri* subsp. *ovalis*) from southern Australia (New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania) and the higher elevation areas of Africa (Tanzania and Uganda), but African records are debated.

## HABITAT

This species is corticolous, and grows on a wide range of native and introduced trees and shrubs. The most common substrata in New Zealand are *Carmichaelia* spp. (broom), *Coprosma crassifolia*, *Crataegus monogyna* (hawthorn), *Malus x domestica* (apple), *Prunus x domestica* (plum), *Salix* spp. (willow), and *Sophora microphylla* (kowhai), and in Australia species of *Acacia*. In Australia it may be found growing with *R. glaucescens* and in New Zealand with *R. glaucescens* and *R. inflexa*.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** corticolous, green-grey, erect, 10–50(–85) cm long; branching sparse with usually only one or a few branches making up the whole thallus; branch width 4–25 mm, flat, apices blunt or rounded, small branchlets often occurring at the apices; surface matt, occasionally having longitudinal ridges; **pseudocyphellae** usually present, short linear or labriform; holdfast present. **Soredia** absent. **Apothecia** laminal only, numerous; disc 04–25 mm diam., plane to convex; margin entire. **Ascospores** ellipsoid, mostly curved, occasionally straight, 10–16(–18) µm 4–6 mm.

**Chemistry.** Usnic acid. Medulla K–.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Coastal, saxicolous specimens of *R. celastri* from northern New Zealand can be differentiated from *R. ovalis* by the pointed tips, marginal and laminal apothecia, multiple branches, branching along the entire thallus, and canaliculate branches. *Ramalina inflexa* can be distinguished from *R. ovalis* by its dichotomous branching, canaliculate branches and marginal and subterminal spurred apothecia. *Ramalina glaucescens* often co-occurs with *R. ovalis* in New Zealand and Australia, but can be distinguished by its chemistry (usually sekikaic and/or divaricatic acids), narrower branches, the presence of side branchlets, and generally marginal and subterminal apothecia (some thalli have some laminal apothecia, but not to the extent seen in specimens of *R. ovalis*).



On birch, Christchurch Canterbury.  
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## SUBSTRATE

Corticolous.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (4 August 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, Similar Taxa and Extra information sections copied from Hayward et al. (2014).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Hayward, G. C., Blanchon, D. J., & Lumbsch, H. T. 2014: *Molecular data support Ramalina ovalis as a distinct lineage* (Ramalinaceae, Ascomycota). *The Lichenologist*, 46(4), 553-561.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ramalina-ovalis/>