

Ramalina pacifica

FAMILY

Ramalinaceae

AUTHORITY

Ramalina pacifica Asahina

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Fruticose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, RR, SO, Sp

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous (occasionally saxicolous) habit; compressed branches, broader basally and narrowing towards apices; soralia with prominent margins; and salazinic acid (K+ red) in the medulla.

DISTRIBUTION

Rare from the Kermadec Islands to Wellington.

Known also from Burma/Bangladesh, Japan, Indonesia (Java), Mariana Is, South Africa, Australia, New Hebrides, Cook Is, Norfolk Is, Bonin Is.

HABITAT

Most common in mainland and offshore island habitats north of Auckland, on *Avicennia marina* subsp. *australasica* and *Metrosideros excelsa* and also in forest remnants on *Agathis australis*, *Crataegus**, *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*, *Fuchsia excorticata*, *Leptospermum scoparium* agg., *Meryta sinclairii*, *Pittosporum crassifolium*, *Pinus radiata**, *Podocarpus totara* var. *totara*, *Salix fragilis** and occasionally on rocks. Mainly coastal but with a few inland records.



Corticolous on mangroves. Photographer: Marley Ford, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Marginal soralia. Photographer: Marley Ford, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus tufted or subpendulous, rather polymorphic, 2-6(-10) cm tall. Erect or straggling, holdfast delimited and rounded, corticolous, occasionally saxicolous. Branches 2-5 mm wide at base, tapering apically, pale yellow-green to greenish-grey, shortly tufted and much divided, \pm terete apically, elsewhere \pm flattened, surface undulate or shallowly faveolate, smooth, waxy or dull without pseudocyphellae, occasionally minutely striate ($\times 10$ lens), sorediate. Soralia mainly marginal also occasionally laminal, rounded to irregular, in concave depressions with flaring undulate margins, to convex, discrete, or becoming confluent, 0.5-4 mm diam., soredia green-white, farinose. **Apothecia** (not seen in New Zealand material) rare, sublateral rarely apical, disc markedly convex at maturity. **Ascospores** straight, $8-15 \times 5-7 \mu\text{m}$.

Chemistry: Cortex K+ yellow; medulla K+ brown, C-, KC+ brown-purple, Pd+ orange. Protocetraric acid. Two chemodemes present: (1) usnic, salazinic (K+ red) and, \pm protocetraric acids, and (2) usnic acid (K-).

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous. Occasionally saxicolous.

ETYMOLOGY

ramalina: Meaning small branches, twiggy.

pacifica: Of the Pacific Ocean.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford and Melissa A. S. Hutchison (February 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features sections sourced from Bannister et al. (2004) and Galloway (2007).

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. 2007: *Flora of New Zealand: Lichens, including lichen-forming and lichenicolous fungi*. 2nd edition. Lincoln, Manaaki Whenua Press. 2261 pp.

Taylor M., Bieleski R.L. and Allan H.H. 2002: Meanings and origins of botanical names of New Zealand plants. *Auckland Botanical Society Bulletin* 26.

MORE INFORMATION

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