

Ramalina peruviana

FAMILY

Ramalinaceae

AUTHORITY

Ramalina peruviana Ach.

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 (occasionally saxicolous) habit; the dense, irregular, branching pattern; branches flattened at base, subterete to terete towards apices; punctiform soralia with small fibrils; and sekikaic acid in the medulla.

DISTRIBUTION

Kermadec Islands: Raoul Island. **North Island:** Northland (Three Kings Islands, Great Barrier Island) to Auckland, the Waikato and Bay of Plenty. **South Island:** Marlborough (Stephens Island), Otago (Silver Peaks – this record is doubtful). **Chatham Islands:** (Wharekauri).

Known also from the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America, the Galapagos Islands, Hawai'i, New Caledonia, Lord Howe Island, Norfolk Island, Tahiti, the Bonin Islands, Java, the Phillipines, Japan, Australia, East Africa and Tristan da Cunha.

HABITAT

Most commonly collected from trees and shrubs (occasionally also on rocks) in northern coastal forest. It is known from the following phorophytes: *Avicennia marina* subsp. *australasica*, *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*, *Kunzea* sp., *Leptospermum scoparium* agg., *Meryta sinclairii*, *Metrosideros excelsa*, *Lophozonia menziesii* [a single specimen was collected from silver beech in the Painted Forest, Silver Peaks in 1933 by J.S. Thomson (CHR) – it has however, not been re-located in this area subsequently], *Pittosporum crassifolium* and *Rhopalostylis baueri* var. *cheesemani*.



Locally abundant corticolous in kahikatea forest remanent, Kaitaia Far North. Photographer: Marley Ford, Licence: CC BY.



Locally abundant corticolous in kahikatea forest remanent, Kaitaia Far North. Photographer: Marley Ford, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus erect, shrubby, 2-4(-8) cm tall, densely and intricately branched, corticolous. **Branches** greenish-grey, solid, flattened, becoming terete or subterete towards apices, 0.1-0.9(-1.5) mm wide, weakly striate or ridged or subfenestrate in basal parts, sorediate. **Soralia** mainly marginal, rarely laminal, often \pm knobby-protuberant, eroded, punctiform, 0.05-0.6(-1.2) mm wide, often giving rise to minute branchlets which are deformed or granular, soredia farinose, white or greenish. **Apothecia** rare, marginal, lateral; disc 0.4-2.7 mm diameter, concave to plane, often incised; ascospores narrow, fusiform, straight or rarely curved, (9.5-)14.5-17 (-23) X 3-6 microns.

Chemistry: Medulla K+ pink; containing usnic, homosekikaic, seki-kaic, ramalinolic, 4'-O-demethylsekikaic, 4'-O-methylnorsekikaic, and \pm 4'-O-methylnorhomosekikaic acids.

SIMILAR TAXA

In some cases, *R. peruviana* can be confused with either *R. australiensis* or *R. pacifica*. Microscope examination of soralia or chemical tests easily differentiate between these species.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, saxicolous

ETYMOLOGY

ramalina: Meaning small branches, twiggy.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (1 May 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features sections copied from Blanchon (1996), Galloway (1985) & Galloway (2007).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Blanchon D.J, Braggins J.E, and Stewart A. 1996: The lichen genus *Ramalina* in New Zealand. *The Journal of the Hattori Botanical Laboratory* 79: 43-98.

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-peruviana/>