

Ramalina unilateralis

FAMILY

Ramalinaceae

AUTHORITY

Ramalina unilateralis F.Wilson

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 (occasionally saxicolous) habit; very variable small thalli, often densely branched at apices; and the cortex splitting laminally (but not at margins) to release soredia.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: South Auckland (Waikato, Pureora) to Wellington (Kapiti Island). **South Island:** Nelson to Southland.

East of the Main Divide and more frequent in Otago and Southland where it is common [J. Bannister, pers. comm.]. Widespread, but sparse to rare in any site – often small and easily overlooked.

Known also from South Africa, Australia and South America.

HABITAT

On trees and shrubs (**Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Aristotelia serrata*, *Coprosma*, **Crataegus*, *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*, *Dacrydium cupressinum*, *Discaria toumatou*, *Elaeocarpus*, *Fuchsia excorticata*, *Kunzea ericoides* agg., *Fuscospora*, *Olearia virgata*, *Pennantia*, *Podocarpus totara*, **Populus*, *Pseudopanax*, *Prumnopitys taxifolia*, **Quercus*, **Sorbus aucuparia*), fence posts and occasionally on rocks, s.l. to 400 m.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus corticolous and saxicolous, yellow-green to pale-green, shrubby to subpendulous, 1–3.5 cm long, branching irregular, dense. **Holdfast** delimited. **Branches** 0.2–2 mm wide, flat to subterete, often palmate at base to 6 mm broad, apically producing numerous fine, fibrillar branches. Surface smooth, sometimes wrinkled, shining or matt. **Soralia** occur in eroded patches at apices of lobes and where branches have split and flattened out. **Apothecia** rare, disc 2 mm diam., concave to plane, margins entire. **Ascospores** ellipsoidal, straight or curved, 10–12 × 4–4.5 µm.

Chemistry: Medulla K–; containing usnic and divaricatic acids.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, rarely saxicolous



Corticolous in grey scrub on *Coprosma wallii* of forest edge, Deanburn Southland.

Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 16/06/2022, Licence: Public domain.



Corticolous in grey scrub in *Coprosma wallii* of forest edge, Deanburn Southland.

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ETYMOLOGY

ramalina: Meaning small branches, twiggy.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (17 June 2023). Information in the Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features sections copied from Galloway (2007).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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-unilateralis/>