

# Ramalodium fecundissimum

## FAMILY

Pannariaceae

## AUTHORITY

Ramalodium fecundissimum Henssen

## FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Squamulose

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Data Deficient

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

A terricolous species and rather variable in habit. The lobes may be broad with veins and ridges, or narrow and canaliculate, incised at the margin or covered with small, cylindrical lobules. It is characterised by the membranaceous, lobate thalli; and the abundantly produced, large, flat, blackish apothecia that are frequently irregular in shape.

## DISTRIBUTION

**North Island:** Gisborne (Kaweka Range). **South Island:** Nelson (Tasman Mountains), Southland (Mavora) (M. Ford pers. comm.)

## HABITAT

On plant debris and mosses on schistose soil and greywacke rocks at high altitudes in exposed, humid habitats.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** olivaceous, membranaceous, lobate with a few holes, attached to substratum by blue-green rhizoidal hyphae. **Lobes** anastomosing, ascending, flat or canaliculate, 0.8–2.5 mm wide with incised margins or with small cylindrical outgrowths. **Thallus** hyphae reticulately branched, 1.2–3.5  $\mu\text{m}$  thick. **Photobiont** Nostoc, filaments 2.5–5.5  $\mu\text{m}$  thick.

**Apothecia** marginal or laminal, numerous, to 6 mm diam., commonly irregular in shape, multidivided or confluent; disc at first brown with a prominent proper margin and suburceolate, becoming blackish and  $\pm$ plane at maturity. Proper exciple annular at first, becoming secondarily closed-cupular, 170–190  $\mu\text{m}$  thick, strongly gelatinised, cell lumina reticulately connected and 1–2.5(–3.5)  $\mu\text{m}$  wide; margin of exciple dark-pigmented. **Hymenium** 140–170  $\mu\text{m}$  tall, finally divided by sterile strands or proliferating. **Epithecium** 25–35  $\mu\text{m}$  thick, at first violaceous-brown, becoming dark-green at maturity. **Subhymenial** layer 95–170  $\mu\text{m}$  high or elongated into a stipe up to 260  $\mu\text{m}$  tall. **Asci** 83–100  $\times$  10–12  $\mu\text{m}$ , walls 1+ blue. Ascospores globose to subglobose, with cerebriform epispore, 10.5–14  $\times$  10–12  $\mu\text{m}$ . **Pycnidia** 120  $\mu\text{m}$  diam., and 95  $\mu\text{m}$  tall. Conidia 2.5–3.5  $\times$  1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**Chemistry:** TLC–, all reactions negative.

## SUBSTRATE

Terricolous, muscicolous (plant debris and mosses on soil), saxicolous (greywacke rocks)



Terricolous, Mavora Southland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 13/03/2023, Licence: CC BY.



Terricolous, Mavora Southland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 13/03/2023, Licence: CC BY.

### **ATTRIBUTION**

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (5 December 2023). 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/ramalodium-fecundissimum/>