

Stereocaulon colensoi

SYNONYMS

Corynophoron colensoi, Pilo-phoron colensoi, Stereocaulon colensoi var. caliginosum

FAMILY

Stereocaulaceae

AUTHORITY

Stereocaulon colensoi C.Bab.

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Fruticose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the saxicolous habit; a large, robust thallus to 8 cm tall; corticate or decorticate pseudopodetia, the surface smooth, wrinkled to verrucose-areolate, never sorediate; corticate, glossy, smooth, terete, finger-like to branched phyllocladia; very distinctly stalked ficoid, single or clustered cephalodia, the surface distinctly convoluted and maculate or scabrid-areolate; lateral and terminal apothecia with prominent, black or dark brown-black, marginate discs; and a chemistry of atranorin, colensoinic acid, unidentified tetrahydroxy fatty acids, and traces of unidentified compounds.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Taranaki (Mt Taranaki), Wellington (Kaimanawa Ranges, Ruapehu, Ruahine Ranges, Tararua Ranges).

South Island: Nelson (Mt Aorere, Mt Arthur Range, Lake Rotoiti, Denniston Plateau), Marlborough (d'Urville Island, Mt Stokes), Canterbury (Arthur's Pass, Temple Basin, Andrews Stream, Hill's Peak, Mt Herbert Banks Peninsula, Mt Peel, Hooker Valley), Otago (Lake Mackenzie, Flagstaff, Maungatua), Southland (Secretary Island, Resolution Island, Dusky Sound, Grebe Valley): **Stewart Island/Rakiura:** (Table Hill, Fraser Peaks, Smith's Lookout Port Pegasus).

Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.

HABITAT

On rocks in subalpine grassland.



Mt Ruapehu. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 15/08/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mt Ruapehu. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 15/08/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus large, robust, to 8 cm tall, firmly attached at base by a well-developed holdfast and there often conspicuously grooved and longitudinally furrowed with little lateral cracking, branching variable, complex or simple. **Pseudopodetia** stout, often vertically furrowed, corticate or decorticate, cortex cracked and somewhat marbled, smooth, wrinkled or verrucose-areolate, investing pseudopodetia ± completely to the base, or often restricted to near apices of pseudopodetia in vicinity of the fruit. **Phyllocladia** corticate, shining, smooth, slightly cracked, terete, finger-like at first becoming branched in older parts, numbers very variable, numerous or sparse. **Cephalodia** very distinctly stalked, ficoid, often numerous, single or clustered, frequently associated with phyllocladia, large, greyish-blue, surface distinctly convoluted and maculate or areolate-scabrid. **Apothecia** common, lateral and terminal, disc black or dark brownish-black, to 5 mm wide, immature fruits plane or concave with a conspicuous pale margin, mature fruits consistently convex and immarginate. Hypothecium colourless. **Ascospores** elongate-fusiform (5-)6-9(-13)-septate, 75-100 × 4-6 µm. **Chemistry:** Atranorin, colensoinic acid, unidentified tetrahydroxy fatty acids, and traces of unidentified compounds.

SIMILAR TAXA

Stereocaulon colensoi could be confused with *S. ramulosum*, but *S. colensoi* grows at higher elevations, its thallus is less branched, and it has darker (dark brown to black) apothecia.

SUBSTRATE

Saxicolous

ETYMOLOGY

colensoi: Named after William Colenso (7 November 1811 - 10 February 1899) who was a Cornish Christian missionary to New Zealand, and also a printer, botanist, explorer and politician.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (February 2023). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features sections copied from Galloway (1985, 2007).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Galloway DJ. 1985. Flora of New Zealand Lichens. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 662 p.
Galloway DJ. 2007. Flora of New Zealand Lichens. Revised 2nd edition including lichen-forming and lichenicolous fungi. Manaaki Whenua Press, Lincoln, NZ. Two volumes: vol. 1 pp 1-1006; vol. 2 pp 1007-2261.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/stereocaulon-colensoi/>