

Stereocaulon vesuvianum

FAMILY

Stereocaulaceae

AUTHORITY

Stereocaulon vesuvianum Pers.

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 saxicolous/terricolous habit; the tight attachment to mainly volcanic rock substrata; the peltate phyllocladia with darker centres and pale margins; and the Pd+ orange reaction (atranorin, stictic and norstictic (\pm) acids).

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Little Barrier Island), Auckland (Waitakere Ranges, Rangitoto Island), South Auckland (Mt Moehau Coromandel Peninsula, Motuhora & Rurima Island, Mt Tarawera, Kaimanawa Range., Taupo), Taranaki (Mt Taranaki), Wellington (Ruapehu, Kapiti Island). **South Island:** Nelson (Waiiau Pass, Island Saddle, Mt Technical Lewis Pass), Canterbury (Hills Peak, Mt Misery near Cass, Craigieburn Range). Known also from Great Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, Greenland, Iceland, Spitsbergen, Russia, Japan, China, United States, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Canary Is, Azores, Cape Verde Islands, West Africa, East Africa, Réunion, Hawai'i, and Australia.

HABITAT

On volcanic soils, lava, more rarely on rocks in subalpine grassland, s.l. to 1500 m.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus to 3.5 cm tall. **Pseudopodetia** simple or sparingly branched, tapering from base to apex, decorticate and rather pruinose. **Phyllocladia** on short, thick stems, rounded peltate, becoming warted-convolute with a prominent dark greenish-grey centre and pale margins, small and crowded at apices of pseudopodetia, larger and more dispersed towards base of pseudopodetia. **Cephalodia** \pm sessile, infrequent, dark green, black or brown, rather amorphous, gelatinous, shining, clustered at base of phyllocladia towards base of pseudopodetia. **Apothecia** rare in New Zealand material, mainly at apices of pseudopodetia, to 1 mm diam., disc pale brown with a concolorous prominent margin when young, occluded at maturity. **Ascospores** 3-5(-6)-septate, (25-)30-50(-55) \times 2.5-3.5 μ m. **Chemistry:** Thallus K+ yellow, C-, KC-, Pd+ orange; containing atranorin, stictic acid and \pm norstictic acid.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to other members of this genus but distinguished by its peltate phyllocladia with darker centres and pale margins.



Saxicolous on basalt, Tongariro Taupo.
Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken:
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Saxicolous on basalt, Tongariro Taupo.
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SUBSTRATE

Terricolous (volcanic soil, lava), rarely saxicolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (27 February 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, and Similar taxa sections copied from Galloway (1985, 2007).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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/stereocaulon-vesuvianum/>