

Sticta colinii

COMMON NAME

Colin's Sticta

FAMILY

Peltigeraceae

AUTHORITY

Sticta colinii D.J.Galloway

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the terricolous/graminicolous habit; a green photobiont; a white medulla; irregularly lacinate, ±convolute rather straggling lobes with entire to crenulate or irregularly lobulate margins without isidia; a smooth to papillate upper surface, glossy at apices and margins; a pale lower surface with velvety tomentum, sometimes with prominent tufts of brown-black anchoring rhizines (up to 4 mm long) developed at margins and centre; and conspicuous, large, white, widely scattered cyphellae.

DISTRIBUTION

South Island: Southland (Takahe Valley Fiordland). **Campbell Island.**

Auckland Island. Antipodes Islands: (N of Mt Waterhouse).

HABITAT

In open scrub–tussock–bryophyte turf; *Coprosma-Myrsine* scrub flush; on blanket peat; modified *Poa littorosa* – *Carex appressa* – *Bulbinella rossii* – *Pleurophyllum speciosum* – *Anisotome antipoda* tall turf megaherbfield; supralittoral cushion; s.l. to 400m.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus 2–5(–8) cm diam., ±loosely attached at base, thin, papery, rather brittle when dry, irregularly spreading or straggling among grasses at base of shrubs, often ±upright. Lobes 2–8(–10) mm wide, 15–30 mm long, ±discrete at margins, contiguous to overlapping centrally, often ±convolute. **Margins** entire, undulate, wavy to crenulate in parts, or rounded or irregularly lobulate and ragged to ±subimbricate, sinuses prominent, acute to smoothly rounded. **Upper surface** lettuce-green to olivaceous, tinged brownish at margins when wet, paler when dry, matt or somewhat glossy at apices, or occasionally with small patches of glistening white pruina, smooth, ±papillate in parts (internal cephalodia) without isidia, maculae or soredia. **Phyllidia** rare to occasional, marginal, 1–2 mm tall, simple to coralloid-branched, 0.2–0.5 mm wide, ±flattened, pubescent and cyphellate below. **Photobiont** green. **Medulla** white. **Lower surface** glossy, pale-whitish or cream, glabrous in a thin, marginal zone, or ±uniformly tomentose from margins to centre; tomentum even, velvety, most conspicuous at margins, often lacking in older parts, white to pale-fawn or occasionally dark-brown in patches; pale-buff to blackened anchoring tufts of rhizines 2–4 mm long may develop on lower surface and at margins. **Cyphellae** rather widely scattered, minute, not apparent near margins, large and obvious centrally, 0.1–0.8(–1.2) mm diam., round, deeply urceolate, pinprick-like at margins, flatter centrally, margins thin, very slightly raised, usually well-defined above tomentum; pit membrane minutely granular, brilliant-white. **Apothecia** not seen.

SIMILAR TAXA

It is distinct from *S. martinii*, which has more fragile, lacerate-phyllidiate lobes that are occasionally white-pruinose or pubescent at the margins, and thalli with a distinctive pulvinate or caespitose growth form. The southern South American endemic *S. santessonii* differs in having marginal and laminal isidia and a cyanobacterial photobiont.

SUBSTRATE

Terricolous, graminicolous

ETYMOLOGY

sticta: spotted, dappled

colinii: Named for the distinguished ecologist Dr Colin Meurk, who has made extensive collections of plants and lichens from Stewart Island and the Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (9 September 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features and Similar taxa 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/sticta-colinii/>