

Thelotrema lepadinum

SYNONYMS

Lichen lepadinus Ach.

FAMILY

Graphidaceae

AUTHORITY

Thelotrema lepadinum (Ach.) Ach.

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Crustose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; emergent apothecia with a blackish disc; colourless muriform ascospores with thick walls, 35–130 × 10–25 µm; and a negative thallus chemistry.

The most frequently collected species of *Thelotrema* in New Zealand.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Three Kings Islands, Te Paki Trig Bush, Herekino, Kawerua, Tutamoe, Bay of Islands, Tapu Bush N Kaipara, Hen & Chickens Islands, Fanal Island, Little Barrier Island, Great Barrier Island, Helena Bay, Wellsford), Auckland (Waitakere Ranges), South Auckland (Great Mercury Island, Shoe Island, Te Aroha, Pirongia, Motuhora Island), Gisborne (Waipatiki Beach), Wellington (Kapiti Island, Tararua Ranges, Eastbourne).

South Island: Nelson (Kaihoka Lakes, Cobb Ridge, Ruby Lake), Marlborough (Ship Cove, d'Urville Island, Chetwode Islands), Canterbury, Otago, Southland (Manapouri). **Stewart Island:** (Magog Fraser Peaks).

Auckland Islands. Campbell Island.

Known also from Great Britain, Scandinavia, Europe, Macaronesia, Africa, India, Sri Lanka, Asia, Japan, Hawai'i, North, Central and South America, Juan Fernandez and Australia.

Designated by the late Mason Hale as a "pantemperate weed".

HABITAT

Throughout, and often common, on bark of forest trees (*Carpodetus*, *Dacrycarpus*, *Dacrydium*, *Griselinia*, *Hoheria*, *Nothofagus* [*Fuscospora*, *Lophozonia*] etc.), especially common on podocarp scales, s.l. to 1000 m.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus pale fawn, buff-yellowish or whitish or olive-greenish, in irregular patches 0.5-5.0(-10) cm diam., minutely granular-verrucose or wrinkled-plicate, matt or ± effuse-roughened, or ± continuous, with occasional cracks, very faintly and minutely white-maculate when wet (×10 lens). **Apothecia** frequent, prominent, hemispherical, 0.2-2.0 mm diam., sessile to ± constricted at base, or in ± dimpled warts, concolorous with thallus, margins thick, flattened or puckered, ± striate or wrinkled, pore gaping, prominent, 0.1-1.2 mm diam., exciple pale buff or whitish, lacerate-ragged, often obscuring disc, detached, producing a double-walled structure around disc, disc pale brown or pinkish to blackish or greyish. **Ascospores** colourless, long-ellipsoid or with tapering ends, 8-12 transverse septa, 2-5 longitudinal septa, (1-)2-4(-8) per ascus, 35-130 × 10-25 µm, straight or slightly curved.

Chemistry: Cortex K+ reddish. TLC nil.

Northern populations are sometimes parasitised by *Nectria byssophila* (q.v.).

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (4 August 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat and Features 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/thelotrema-lepadinum/>