

# Thysanothecium scutellatum

## SYNONYMS

Baeomyces hyalinus, Cladonia ? scutellata, Thysanothecium hyalinum

## FAMILY

Cladoniaceae

## AUTHORITY

Thysanothecium scutellatum (Fr.) D.J.Galloway

## FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Fruticose

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: RR, SO

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the lignicolous (charred wood) habit; the fissured cortex with corticate granules protruding from the cartilaginous network of nerve-like strands; the marginate apothecia; the morphology of the primary thallus; chemistry; and by its distinctive habitat requirements of charred wood.

## DISTRIBUTION

**North Island:** Northland (Radar Bush near Pandora, Te Huka, Karikari Peninsula, Awanui Swamp, Puketi Forest, Okaihu Hill, Little Barrier Island, Great Barrier Island to Waiwera), Auckland (Anawhata, Waitakere Ranges), South Auckland (Waiomu, Mt Maungatawhiri, Hot Water Beach, Coromandel Ranges, Great Mercury Island, Waiomu, Kaingaroa, Waituhi).

**South Island:** Nelson (Crusader Bluff, Lake Rotoroa), Marlborough (Ship Cove) to Southland.

Known also from Japan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia and Australia.

## HABITAT

Both East and West of the Main Divide, on charred wood, rarely on decorticated wood (e.g. dead stumps of *Cupressus macrocarpa*\*), coastal and inland, s.l. to 300 m – an easily overlooked species.



On burnt macrocarpa log, Hokianga Far North.  
Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken:  
04/05/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Growing on kauri stump, Matakohe Northland.  
Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken:  
06/08/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Primary thallus** squamulose, or ± nodular-papillate, squamules ± dorsiventral, scattered to ± densely packed, imbricate, forming a spreading, diffract- areolate crust, minute, 0.05-0.5(-1.0) mm diam., margins crenate, becoming lobulate, convex and ± closely attached to substrate, to ascending, ± imbricate, whitish or pale greenish to greenish-yellow above, tinged brownish at apices, white below, often clothing base of pseudopodetia to 5 mm, on charred or decorticated wood. **Pseudopodetia** arising from margins or apices of primary squamules, at first simple, terete and uniformly corticate, at maturity fissured, grooved, ± canaliculate or partly hollow, formed of horny, cartilaginous nerve- like strands between which corticate granules and medullary hyphae are exposed, 1-2 mm wide at base, flaring to 2-6 mm wide at apices, 0.1-10(-15) mm tall. Cortex yellowish-green to brownish, distinctly grooved-striate, discontinuous, cartilaginous strands corticate, glossy, spaces between filled with corticate granules and medullary hyphae. **Apothecia** terminal often also subterminal on secondary branches, disc ± plane, rotund at first, becoming irregular- undulate, fan-shaped or deeply crenulate-lacerate, margins entire at first, becoming sinuous, crenate, persistent, distinctly raised, concolorous with thallus or paler, surface of disc smooth or very minutely scabrid, pale yellowish- green to pinkish-brown, not or rarely minutely white-pruinose. **Ascospores** ellipsoid, straight or slightly curved, 5-8 × 3 µm. Pycnidia marginal on primary thallus, black, cylindrical to bottle-shaped, with an apical gaping ostiole 0.05-0.08 mm wide. **Conidia** not seen.

**Chemistry:** Cortex and medulla K-, C-, KC-, Pd-; containing divaricatic, nordivaricatic (tr.), stenosporic (tr.) and usnic acids.

## SUBSTRATE

Lignicolous (charred wood)

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (26 January 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features sections copied from Galloway (1985) & Galloway (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/thysanothecium-scutellatum/>