

# Trapeliopsis colensoi

## SYNONYMS

*Biatora colensoi*, *Lecidea colensoi*, *Psora colensoi*

## FAMILY

Trapeliaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Trapeliopsis colensoi* (C.Bab.) Gotth.Schneid.

## 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 terricolous/corticolous habit; its swollen, overlapping, squamulose thallus; the glaucous greenish, to pale-greyish or fawn-grey, rather scabrid upper surface; the pale-greenish to whitish, marginal, labriform soralia; the orange-brown or yellowish lower surface; the purplish black confluent apothecia.

## DISTRIBUTION

**North Island:** Wellington (Ruahine Ranges, Tararua Ranges). **South Island:** Nelson (Mt Cobb, Hoary Head, Mt Aorere, Mt Owen, Mt Zetland), Marlborough (Mt Stokes), Canterbury (Boyle River, Temple Basin, Arthur's Pass, Craigieburn Range), Otago (Park Pass Rockburn, Routeburn, Von River, Kakanui Mts, Mt Pissgah, Poolburn Reservoir, Lake Onslow, Blue Mountains), Southland (Longwood Range) both E and W of the Main Divide. **Stewart Island.**

Also in Australia (Victoria and Tasmania).

## HABITAT

On soil, peat, decaying stumps or dead tussock bases, mainly in subalpine habitats though it is also often found at margins of beech forest.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** squamulose to small-foliose, squamules 1.5-2 mm diam., convex, orbicular to spreading, imbricate, ascending lobate, in patches to 8 cm diam., corticolous, lignicolous or terricolous. **Upper surface** glaucous-green to pale or whitish, smooth, matt, pruinose, occasionally sorediate, soralia marginal, labriform, soredia pale greenish, farinose. Lower cortex orange-brown or yellowish. **Apothecia** glaucous-brown to purplish-black, confluent, convex, immarginate. **Ascospores** ellipsoid, 11-14 × 5-7 µm.

**Chemistry:** Cortex C+ pinkish-red. Gyrophoric acid and 4 unidentified pigments.

Grassland specimens are sometimes parasitised by a minute, black perithecioid lichenicolous fungus.



Arthurs Pass. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 21/02/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Flat Top Hill, Alexandra. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 20/11/2019, Licence: CC BY-NC.

### SIMILAR TAXA

It is likely that the more widely distributed taxa, *Trapeliopsis glaucolepidea* and *T. haumanii*, that have wider, disjunct distributions (Europe, E Africa, tropical America and Papua New Guinea) are conspecific with *T. colensoi*, a question currently under investigation (Galloway 2007).

### SUBSTRATE

Terricolous, corticolous (decaying stumps), graminicolous (dead tussock bases)

### 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 (19 January 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/trapeliopsis-colensoi/>