

Usnea acromelana

SYNONYMS

Neuropogon acromelanus (Stirt.) I.M.Lamb

FAMILY

Parmeliaceae

AUTHORITY

Usnea acromelana Stirt.

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 habit; the erect, proliferating habit; a monopodial to moderately branched thallus often with violaceous-black pigmentation; a smooth, waxy, black-annulate surface; numerous immarginate soralia; and a compact medulla containing norstictic and salazinic acids.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Taranaki (Mt Taranaki), Wellington (Tama Lakes, Tongariro National Park). **South Island:** Nelson (Cobb Ridge, Mt Arthur, St Arnaud Range, Crimea Range), Marlborough (Mt Tapae-o-uenuku, Branch River), Canterbury (Mt Technical, Sugarloaf Cass, Craigieburn Range, Torlesse Range, Mt Sinclair Banks Peninsula, Sebastopol, Ben Ohau Range, Kirkliston Range, Four Peaks Range), Otago (Mt Avalanche, Mt Sir William, Mt Earnslaw, Humboldt Mts, The Remarkables, Coronet Peak, Pisa Range, Old Man Range, Poolburn Reservoir, Rock & Pillar Range, Maungatua), Southland (West Dome, Mid Dome, Mt Barrier). **Stewart Island:** (Mt Anglem). **Chatham Islands.** Known also from South East Australia, southern South America and maritime Antarctica.

HABITAT

On rock outcrops and in fellfield on rocky pavement, (100-) 550-2800 m.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus rather straggling, tufted, to 9 cm tall. Branches 1-2 mm wide at base, becoming thinner and more densely branching, entangled towards apices. **Surface** yellow to yellow-green at base, continuous, smooth, waxy or shining, often wrinkled or faveolate in large specimens, bluish-black with black cracks towards apices. **Soredia** common, especially towards tips of branches, in concave-eroded soralia which may become convex and often confluent, soredia granular, yellow to blackened. **Apothecia** very rare, disc black, ray-like branchlets absent, thalline exciple smooth.

Chemistry: Containing usnic acid and norstictic, salazinic and ±protocetraric acids.

SUBSTRATE

Saxicolous.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (12 April 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features and Similar taxa 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/usnea-acromelana/>