

Usnea baileyi

SYNONYMS

Eumitria baileyi

FAMILY

Parmeliaceae

AUTHORITY

Usnea baileyi (Stirt.) Zahlbr.

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Fruticose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; terete branches; fragile, cylindrical isidia that are easily dislodged, leaving pseudocyphellae; a dense medulla with a pigmented layer around the hollow, tubular axis; and a chemistry of eumittrins and depsidones (especially norstictic acid).

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland, Auckland, Coromandel.

Pantropical. Known also from Florida, the Caribbean, Central and South America, East Africa, India, China, Taiwan, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Australia, and the Pacific.

HABITAT

In open forest in canopy branches, occasionally also on fenceposts.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus erect to subpendulous, 5–15(–20) cm long. Holdfast black or occasionally pale to concolorous with thallus. Branches terete to somewhat ridged, 1–1.5 mm diam., pale-grey to dark greenish grey, branching subdichotomous to irregular; apices attenuate, straight or curved. **Fibrils** sparse to dense on main branches, to 5 mm long. Isidia always present, sparse to dense, solitary or clustered, cylindrical, easily eroded or dislodged, leaving pseudocyphellae. **Pseudocyphellae** scattered, punctiform or raised. Soralia absent. Medulla dense. **Axis** hollow, or with a loose web of hyphae, with a pigmented layer (red, pink, ochraceous-yellow, rusty or chocolate-brown) around axis.

Chemistry: Medulla K+ red (often obscured by pigment); containing usnic acid, eumittrin A, ±eumittrin B, norstictic acid (major), ±salazinic acid (minor), connorstictic acid (tr.), galbinic acid (tr.), and hyposalazinic acid (tr.).



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SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (2 August 2021). Information in the 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/usnea-baileyi/>