

Usnea subciliata

SYNONYMS

Usnea pulverulenta f. *subciliata* Motyka

FAMILY

Parmeliaceae

AUTHORITY

Usnea subciliata (Motyka) Swinscow & Krog

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Fruticose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: OL, SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; the shrubby, greenish grey thallus, 5–7 cm tall; terete, tapering branches with numerous, dense papillae; scattered tubercles often with pseudocyphellae; numerous, excavate to plane or protuberant soralia; and fatty acids and norstictic or salazinic acids (K+ yellow→red) in the medulla.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Kaipara, Waikato, South Auckland (Slipper Island).
Known also from Australia and Tasmania, and East Africa.

HABITAT

On pōhutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) and tanekaha (*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*) bark.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus shrubby, erect, 5–7 cm tall, pale-green to green or grey-green, branching subdichotomous to irregular, pale to partly black at base.

Branches terete, 0.5–1.5 mm diam., primary branches partially inflated, rarely faveolate, apices tapering, somewhat curved. Branchlets absent.

Fibrils numerous, fine, occurring along length of branch. **Papillae** numerous, dense. Tubercles scattered. **Pseudocyphellae** mainly on tubercles but a few on cortex. **Soralia** numerous, excavate to plane or protuberant, very large and coalescing towards apices. **Medulla** lax to moderately dense; axis $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{3}$ width of branch, hyaline. **Apothecia** not seen.

Chemistry: Thallus K+ yellow→orange; containing norstictic or salazinic acids and fatty acids.



Corticolous on exposed pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) roots. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Date taken: 02/10/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Corticolous on tanekaha over hanging river, Karangahake Waikato. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 09/04/2022, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

Usnea oncodes is similar but *U. subeciliata* has soralia on secondary, tertiary and terminal branches, not present on primary branches; dense papillae, compared with soralia apical and subapical on terminal branches and branchlets; and papillae, if present, are sparse to moderate.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (2 August 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features and Similar taxa sections copied from Galloway (1985) & 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-subeciliata/>