

# Usnea xanthopoga

## FAMILY

Parmeliaceae

## AUTHORITY

Usnea xanthopoga Nyl.

## 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 corticolous habit; the small, caespitose, sympodially branched thalli; a waxy, glabrous, glossy cortex; numerous spinulose isidia on small, raised warts; punctiform pseudocyphellae on terminal branches; and fumarprotocetraric acid as major secondary medullary compound.

## DISTRIBUTION

**South Island:** Southland. **Stewart Island. Snares Islands. Auckland Islands. Campbell Island:** (Beeman Station, Perseverance Harbour). **Antipodes Islands.**

Known also from Australia (New South Wales and Tasmania) and Macquarie Island and from Argentinian Tierra del Fuego and Staten Island.

## HABITAT

Epiphytic on scrub in exposed subantarctic grasslands or fellfield.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Thallus** fruticose, often caespitose, pale greenish-yellow to pale yellow, cortex waxy, glabrous, shining, branches firmly attached at base, 1-1.5 mm thick, sympodially branched, straight, gradually attenuate at apices, not inflated, rarely **papillate, sorediate. Soredia** numerous, discrete, **isidiate**, in small warts or raised on rounded, knobbly **soralia**, occasionally **spinulose-isidiate. Apothecia** not seen.

**Chemistry:** Medulla K–; containing fumarprotocetraric, protocetraric (tr.), hypoprotocetraric (tr.) and usnic acids.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to *U. inermis* but with a K– or + brownish thallus (fumarprotocetraric acid present).

## SUBSTRATE

Corticolous



Corticolous on silver beech, Longwoods Southland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Licence: CC BY.



Corticolous on silver beech, Longwoods Southland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 28/05/2022, Licence: CC BY.

### **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. 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-xanthopoga/>