

Xanthopsoroma contextum

FAMILY

Pannariaceae

AUTHORITY

Xanthopsoroma contextum (Stirt.) Elvebakk

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 corticolous habit, the squamulose thallus developing on a rather thin, black, scattered to somewhat eroded prothallus; thalline squamules 1–3 m diam., flattened, lobate-crenate, surface waxy, smooth, pressed together and separated by fine black lines like a jigsaw puzzle, rarely imbricate at margins, becoming minutely lobulate and subimbricate centrally, margins not “frosted”; rather rare, simple, globose to glomerulate cephalodia developed below squamules and projecting from margins of squamules; apothecia projecting above squamules, 1–2 mm diam., margins waxy, crenate-striate, the disc red-brown often darkening centrally, and rarely with a few scattered thalline lobules; and ellipsoidal ascospores, 18–24 × 12–17 μm.

DISTRIBUTION

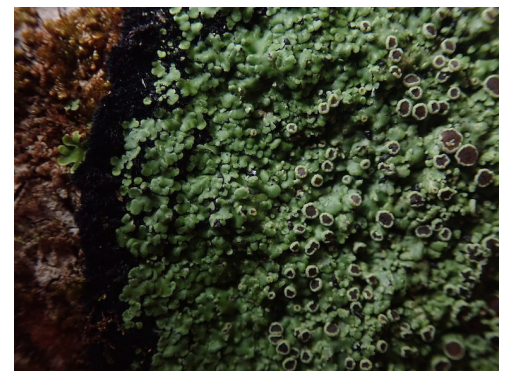
North Island: Wellington (Wellington) **South Island:** Nelson (Denniston Plateau), Westland (Ngatau Valley), Canterbury (Nina Valley, Arthur’s Pass, Cass), Otago (Forgotten River, Lake Wilkie Catlins), Southland (Stuart Mts, Caswell Sound). **Stewart Island** (Sylvan Cove Port Pegasus). **Auckland Islands:** (Carnley Harbour, Enderby Island).
Known also from Argentina and South East Australia.

HABITAT

Throughout, mainly W of the Main Divide in South Island, in *Fuscospora* forest on bark and wood and among mosses on tree trunks and on twigs in damp, semi-shaded habitats.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus squamulose, very closely attached, spreading, 4-6(-10) cm diam., prothallus only rarely present, black, thin, somewhat eroded, scattered. **Squamules** small, 1-3 mm diam., flattened, lobate-crenate, distinctly placodioid at margins, pressed together, separated by fine black cracks like a jigsaw puzzle, rarely imbricate at margins, becoming minutely lobulate and subimbricate centrally in a close mosaic, surface smooth, waxy, shining, margins not pubescent- frosted, dark green to pale green or whitish or yellowish-grey not darkening on storage. **Cephalodia** rare, simple, globose to ± glomerulate, not flattened- placodioid, pale brown-grey, surface smooth, not wrinkled or striate-cracked, developed below squamules, protruding from margins of squamules, to 0.8 mm diam. **Apothecia** sessile to subpedicellate, scattered to crowded, projecting above squamules, round to subirregular, to 2 mm diam., margins concolorous with thallus, waxy, crenate-striate, obscuring disc in young fruits, disc red- brown, matt, often darkening centrally, rarely with a single to a few thalline lobules centrally, plane or subconcave, not etched- contorted, fissured or pruinose. **Ascospores** ellipsoid to fusiform 18-24 × 12-17 µm.

Chemistry: TLC-, all reactions negative.

SIMILAR TAXA

This taxon is closely similar to *Psoroma pholidotoides* (q.v.) and may in fact prove to be conspecific with it. More work is needed on this and other taxa in the *Pannaria implexa* group.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (25 August 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features and Similar taxa 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/xanthopsoroma-contextum/>