

Arthonia atra

SYNONYMS

Opegrapha atra

FAMILY

Arthoniaceae

AUTHORITY

Arthonia atra (Pers.) A. Schneid.

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Crustose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, SO

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; the mosaic-forming thallus; short, black lirellae in dense clusters; 3-septate ascospores, 13–18(–20) × 2.5–4(–5) µm; and no secondary chemistry.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Whangarei, Warkworth), Auckland (Auckland City), South Auckland (Glenbrook, Hamilton, Huntly), Taranaki (New Plymouth), Wellington (Hutt Valley). **South Island:** Canterbury (Christchurch City).

Known also from the United Kingdom, Europe, North America, Brazil, Hawai'i and Australia

HABITAT

On mainly introduced trees in parks and streets, most common in rather heavily polluted urban sites.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus thin, smooth to effuse or delimited in small patches, often forming mosaics, whitish, greyish or olivaceous. **Apothecia** lirelline, black, carbonised, short, 0.5–2 × 0.1–0.3 mm, and to 130 µm tall, abundant, in dense clusters or randomly distributed in parallel, sometimes forming dense, contiguous black patches, sessile, disc a slit. Exciple K+ olive-green. Hymenium 60–90 µm tall, I+ blue; epithecium brown or green-brown, K+ olive-green. **Ascospores** 3-septate, ellipsoidal to clavate, 13–18(–20) × 2.5–4(–5) µm.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa A. S. Hutchison and Marley Ford (April 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features sections sourced from Galloway (2007).



Close up of lirellae as seen on specimen corticolous on *Myoporum semotum*, Kaiangaroa, Rekohu (Chatham Island).
Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Date taken: 23/09/2019, Licence: Public domain.



corticolous on *Myoporum semotum*, Kaiangaroa, Rekohu (Chatham Island).
Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Date taken: 23/09/2019, Licence: Public domain.

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/arthonia-atra/>