

Crocodia poculifera

SYNONYMS

Pseudocyphellaria poculifera

FAMILY

Peltigeraceae

AUTHORITY

Crocodia poculifera (Müll.Arg.) D.J.Galloway & Elix

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by a yellow medulla; a green algal photobiont; marginal and laminal isidia that are densely clustered, minutely coralloid, at length becoming eroded and appearing sorediate.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Three Kings Is) to Auckland, South Auckland (Coromandel Peninsula to Te Aroha).

Known also from East Africa, Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Norfolk I., Fiji, Lord Howe I., and Queensland. Palaeotropical.

HABITAT

In mainly lowland, coastal habitats on twigs and bark of trees and shrubs and more rarely on sunny rocks, s.l. to 300 m.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus orbicular to spreading, often free at margins, 5-10(-12) cm diam. **Lobes** lacinate-elongate, imbricate, margins wavy, crisped, minutely notched or incised, \pm isidiate. **Upper surface** bright lettuce-green, tinged brownish at apices when wet, pale greenish-grey when dry, undulate, smooth, matt, minutely white-pubescent towards lobe apices, often faintly scabrid in patches. Medulla yellow. Photobiont green. **Lower surface** whitish to pale yellowish, suffused pinkish in parts, very finely tomentose to margins, tomentum sparse, short, white, soft. Pseudocyphellae scattered, yellow, effigurate to rounded, to 1.5 mm wide, flat. **Apothecia** 2-8mm diam., marginal or submarginal, distinctly pedicellate, disc dark red-brown, deeply concave, margins coarsely golden-sorediate, \pm enclosed by verrucose-areolate, white tomentose, concolorous thalline exciple. **Ascospores** brown, fusiform, 1-3-septate, $18-21 \times 6-7 \mu\text{m}$.

May be parasitised by the lichenicolous fungi *Arthonia fuscopurpurea* and *A. stictaria*.

Chemistry: Pulvinic acid, pulvinic dilactone, calycin, 3 β -acetoxyfern-9(11)-en-one, 3 β -acetoxyfern-9(11)-en-12 β -ol, fern-9(11)-ene-3 β ,12 β -diol, 3 β -acetoxyfern-9(11)-en-19 β -ol, 3 β -hydroxyfern-9(11)-en-12-one, and unidentified triterpenoids.



Lane Cove, Northland. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 19/01/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Lane Cove, Northland. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 19/01/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Crocodia poculifera does not have the labriform marginal soralia characteristic of *Crocodia aurata*. It is distinguished from *Crocodia rubella* by the lack of surface tomentum and laminal soredia and a different chemistry; and from *Podostictina pickeringii* in the nature of the isidia, the structure of the exciple, and in the size and colour of the ascospores.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (April 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features and Similar taxa sections copied from Galloway (1985) and 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/crocodia-poculifera/>