Leptogium coralloideum

COMMON NAME
Jelly lichen

SYNONYMS
Leptogium diaphanum f. coralloideum

FAMILY
Collemataceae

AUTHORITY
Leptogium coralloideum (Meyen & Flot.) Vain.

FLORA CATEGORY
Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON
No

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Lichen - Foliose

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

BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Characterised by the corticolous habit; the deeply ridged upper surface and the crowded cylindrical to coralloid isidia.

DISTRIBUTION

HABITAT
In coastal forest or forest remnants, exposed coastal scrub, on rocks and rarely on soil. It is an epiphyte of the following phorophytes: Acer pseudoplatanus*, Agathis australis, Berberis glaucocarpa*, Cordyline australis, Corynocarpus laevigatus, Kunzea species, Melicytus ramiflorus, Metrosideros excelsa, Myoporum laetum, Myrsine australis, Olearia furfuracea, Populus nigra*, Pseudopanax arboreus, and Salix fragilis*.

FEATURES
Thallus lobate, dark green-black or blue-black, pulpy and conspicuous when wet, olive-brownish, dark-grey or grey-blue when dry, closely to loosely attached to bark or encircling twigs, orbicular to spreading, 2–8(15) cm diam. Lobes irregular, rounded to oblong, margins rounded, often ascending, thickened, inrolled, densely isidiate. Upper surface strongly ridged–plicate, ridges sharply defined, isidiate. Isidia cylindrical to coralloid, to 1 mm tall, densely crowded. Lower surface concolorous with upper surface or slightly paler, ridged–complicate, without tomental hairs. Apothecia not seen.
SIMILAR TAXA
It differs from the rather similar *Leptogium brebissonii*, a species not present in New Zealand, mainly in having coralloid isidia on the laminal ridges, and in apothecial characters (Verdon 1990: 431; Jørgensen 1994: 6).

SUBSTRATE
Corticolous

ATTRIBUTION

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

MORE INFORMATION