

Pseudocyphellaria gretae

FAMILY

Peltigeraceae

AUTHORITY

Pseudocyphellaria gretae D.J.Galloway

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by irregular rosettes formed of broadly rounded to sublinear lobes with entire to incised, crenulate, and often densely isidiate margins; a densely to sparsely tomentose upper surface, often with granular to coralloid tomentose isidia spreading as a thick, diffract crust; a white medulla; a green photobiont; a densely tomentose lower surface with minute, scattered white to pale-yellow pseudocyphellae; and no detectable chemistry.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: South Auckland (Raglan) to Cook Strait. **South Island:** Nelson to Southland, both E and W of the Main Divide. **Stewart Island:** (Oban to Port Pegasus).

HABITAT

An epiphyte of trees and shrubs in forest and scrub, in moist, cool, humid habitats, s.l. to 1200 m.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus ± orbicular or in irregular rosettes, 5-10(-18) cm wide, ± loosely attached. **Lobes** numerous, 0.5-1.5 cm wide, 1-2 cm long, ± convex, thin and rather delicate in texture, overlapping or at least marginally contiguous except for apices, margins crenate-incised, isidiate, uneven, often sinuous or subascendent. **Upper surface** bright lettuce-green when wet, pale grey-green, buff to yellowish-olive or pinkish when dry, often becoming dark red-brown on storage, apices slightly darkened, brownish ± uniformly to irregularly tomentose, tomentum, white, silky rather delicate and often thin and abraded in older parts, cortex below tomentum smooth to scabrid and ± reticulate-cracked, undulate, wrinkled, never faveolate, isidiate, without soredia, maculae or pseudocyphellae. Isidia small, delicate, granular, flattened, coralloid, marginal, occasionally and rarely laminal in older parts. Medulla white. Photobiont green. **Lower surface** pale, whitish to pale pinkish-tan centrally, uniformly white- tomentose to margins, tomentum, soft, silky rather short. Pseudocyphellae white, scattered to numerous, tubercular, minute, inapparent, 0.4-0.8 mm diam., central decorticate area very small. **Cephalodia** internal, often visible as distinct, ± hemispherical swellings on both upper and lower surfaces. **Apothecia** very rare, sessile to subpedicellate 0.5-2.0 mm diam., disc concave to plane, dark red-brown, shining, epruinose, margins entire, pale flesh-coloured, tomentose. **Ascospores** biseriate, 1-3-septate, brown, ellipsoid with pointed ends, 25.5-29 × 10.2-13.6 µm.

Chemistry: TLC–, all reactions negative.

SIMILAR TAXA

It is distinguished from *Pseudocyphellaria pubescens* by the marginal isidia, the epruinose apothecial discs which are red-brown and not black, by the white pseudocyphellae and by the chemistry (*P. pubescens* has a complex chemistry).

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous (trees)

ETYMOLOGY

gretae: Named in honour of Greta Du Rietz who collected lichens widely throughout New Zealand in 1926-27 with her husband G. Einar Du Rietz. Greta Du Rietz prepared all of the plant collections, took the photographs on their expedition, and made the botanical drawings to illustrate Einar Du Rietz's accounts of New Zealand plants. She maintained an active interest in lichens, especially those of New Zealand and in the preparation of this flora until her death in 1981.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (3 March 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat and Features 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/pseudocyphellaria-gretae/>