

Teloschistes spinosus

FAMILY

Teloschistaceae

AUTHORITY

Teloschistes spinosus (Hook.f. & Taylor) Js.Murray

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Fruticose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the saxicolous habit; small, straggling thalli, 0.5–1.5(–2) cm diam.; narrow, subdichotomously branching lobes with prominent, thick laminal and marginal cilia scattered to dense on upper surface, and widely scattered rhizines below; minute, marginal and more rarely laminal, soralia commonly present (often dense and giving thalli a granular appearance), sometimes becoming erose-excavate; soredia yellow-orange, farinose to slightly granular, but smaller than in *T. fasciculatus*. Apothecia are not known in New Zealand collections.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Wellington (Cape Palliser). **South Island:** Marlborough (Chetwode Islands, Fairhall Valley), Otago (Kurow, Benmore Dam, Alexandra). Recently found on the West Coast near Harihari (Glenny 2021).

Still very poorly known and collected in New Zealand.

Also known in Australia (where it is also corticolous), from New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

HABITAT

Both coastal and inland, on rocks in dry localities. Glenny (2021) recorded it as “epiphyte on *Carmichaelia australis* in *Hoheria glabra* / *Chionochloa pallens* treeland on hillslope.”

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus small, straggling decumbent, 0.5–1.5(–2) cm diam., occasionally forming small cushions. **Lobes** small, narrow, subdichotomously branching, 0.2–0.8 mm wide, ±flattened, pale whitish below, yellow to orange-red above, with laminal and marginal **cilia** scattered to densely developed on the upper surface, and occasional and widely scattered rhizines on the lower surface. **Soralia** present, minute, granular to nodular, often dense and giving thalli a granular appearance, sometimes becoming erose-excavate; soredia farinose to slightly granular, yellow-orange.

Apothecia not seen. **Pycnidia** rare, large and protruding. **Conidia** bacillar.

Chemistry: Chemosyndrome A; with parietin (major), emodin, parietinic acid, fallacinal, teloschistin and erythroglaucon.

SIMILAR TAXA

Teloschistes spinosus is similar to *T. sieberianus* (q.v.), but this latter species has different conidia, is never sorediate, and usually has more decumbent lobes and thinner cilia that are often white-tipped. Pycnidia are large and protruding (but rare in New Zealand collections), with straight (bacillar) conidia, which differ from those of all other New Zealand *Teloschistes* species (in *T. chrysophthalmus* and some other foreign species of *Teloschistes*, conidia are bacillar to narrowly ellipsoidal). Soredia are smaller than in *T. fasciculatus*.



SUBSTRATE

Saxicolous, corticolous

ETYMOLOGY

spinosus: Spiny

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (22 July 2023). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, and Similar taxa sections copied from Galloway (2007).

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.

Glenny D. 2021: iNaturalist observation. <https://inaturalist.nz/observations/110119455>. Date accessed: 22 July 2023.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/teloschistes-spinosus/>