

Usnea angulata

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

CATEGORY

Lichen

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Fruticose

LICHEN SUBSTRATES

Corticolous (bark, wood), Saxicolous (rock)

SUBSTRATE DETAILS

Corticolous, rarely saxicolous

GENUS

Usnea

FAMILY

Parmeliaceae

AUTHORITY

Usnea angulata Ach.

SYNONYMS

Usnea torquescens Stirt.

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

CULTURAL USE/IMPORTANCE

This species had a traditional use by Māori as both nappies and sanitary pads (the late Irihapeti Ramsden, pers. comm.). Traditional use of species of *Usnea* by Maori (referred to as either angiangi or kohukohu) is discussed by Riley (1994) and Fuller et al. (2004) under the blanket name *Usnea barbata* (a Northern Hemisphere lichen not present in New Zealand), but it is likely that several, well-developed and plentiful species, including *U. angulata*, were used for medicinal purposes, utilising the antibiotic properties of usnic acid.

ETYMOLOGY

angulata: From the Latin angulatus 'cornered or angular'

NVS CODE

USNANG



Apothecia. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 21/07/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Ohiwa, Bay of Plenty. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 22/12/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Fuller R.J.M.; Buchanan P.K.; and Roberts M. 2004: *Maori knowledge of fungi / Matauranga o Nga Harore*. In: McKenzie, E.H.C. (Ed.) Introduction. Fungi of New Zealand/Ngā Harore o Aotearoa Volume 1. *Fungal Diversity Research Series 14*: 81–118.
- 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.
- Riley M. 1994: *Māori healing and herbal: New Zealand ethnobotanical sourcebook*. Paraparaumu, Viking Sevenses NZ.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/usnea-angulata/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026