

Usnea antarctica

SYNONYMS

Neuropogon antarcticus (Du Rietz) I.M.Lamb

FAMILY

Parmeliaceae

AUTHORITY

Usnea antarctica Du Rietz

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: RR, SO, Sp

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the saxicolous habit; the erect, richly branched thallus arising from a delimited holdfast pigmented towards the apices; the matt, papillate to grossly papillate surface without annulations; a compact medulla; and plane, crateriform soralia.

DISTRIBUTION

South Island: Canterbury (Kirkliston Range), Otago (Mt Earnslaw, Pisa Range, Old Man Range).

Known also from southern South America, Falkland Islands, Kerguelen, Bouvetøya, Marion and Prince Edward Islands, Heard Island, South Sandwich Islands, South Orkney Islands, South Georgia, South Shetland Islands and continental Antarctica.

HABITAT

On exposed fellfield rocks, 1450–2100 m, rather rare.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus fruticose, tufted, to 8 cm tall. **Branches** sparingly to copiously divided, becoming entangled-complex at apices. **Surface** yellow or brownish-yellow at base, variegated yellow and black apices, without annulations, distinctly **papillate** or coarsely warted towards base. **Soralia** blackened, granular. **Apothecia** not seen in New Zealand material.

Chemistry: Medulla K+ brown, C–, KC–, Pd+ red; containing fumarprotocetraric and usnic acids.

SUBSTRATE

Saxicolous

ETYMOLOGY

antarctica: Antarctic

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (12 April 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/usnea-antarctica/>