

Usnea nidifica

SYNONYMS

Usnea societatis

FAMILY

Parmeliaceae

AUTHORITY

Usnea nidifica Taylor

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: SO, Sp

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous (rarely saxicolous) habit; the robust, long (10–40 cm), pendent branches with anisotomic-dichotomous branching; the waxy, continuous subfaveolate to faveolate surface, that is here and there sorediate (soredia arising from small, fleck-like pseudocyphellae and becoming isidiate); and norstictic and salazinic acids as major secondary compounds.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Three Kings Is, Radar Bush, Moturoa I., Poor Knights Is, Great Barrier I., Kawau I.), South Auckland (Whale I.).
Pantropical. Known also from Mauritius, India, Malaysia, Java, the Philippines, Japan, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Norfolk I., Fiji, Tahiti, and Australia.

HABITAT

A northern coastal species on *Metrosideros excelsa* and other coastal trees and shrubs, rarely on rocks.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus pendulous, to 40 cm long, rigid, uniformly pale yellowish-green, smooth, slightly shining, branching sympodial, secondary branches flaccid, pendulous. Branches 1–5 mm wide at base, attenuate towards apices, irregularly articulate-cracked, terete, slightly wrinkled, subfaveolate, smooth, sorediate, without papillae. **Soredia** becoming isidiate, spinulose, arising from small, fleck-like pseudocyphellae.

Chemistry: Medulla K+ yellow→red; containing norstictic, salazinic (tr.), protocetraric and usnic acids.

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous, saxicolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (5 August 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, and Features sections copied from Galloway (1985, 2007).



Corticolous on mangroves. Photographer: Marley Ford, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Apothecia. Photographer: Marley Ford, Licence: CC BY-NC.

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-nidifica/>