

Leptogium coralloideum

COMMON NAME

Jelly lichen

SYNONYMS

Leptogium diaphanum f. *coralloideum*

FAMILY

Collemataceae

AUTHORITY

Leptogium coralloideum (Meyen & Flot.) Vain.

FLORA CATEGORY

Lichen – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lichens - Foliose

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Characterised by the corticolous habit; the deeply ridged upper surface and the crowded cylindrical to coralloid isidia.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Northland (Taratarā) to Wellington. **South Island:** Nelson (Aniseed Valley), Marlborough (d'Urville I. to Kowhai Bush). Between latitudes 35°18's to 42°23's (map in Galloway 1999: 328, fig. 6). Cosmopolitan. It has a wide, tropical to warm-temperate distribution and is recorded from NW Europe, East Africa, Brazil, Australia, Arizona, and Mexico (Swinscow & Krog 1988; Verdon 1990, 1992; Jørgensen 1994; Aptroot 2002; McCarthy 2003, 2006; Jørgensen & Nash 2004).

HABITAT

In coastal forest or forest remnants, exposed coastal scrub, on rocks and rarely on soil. It is an epiphyte of the following phorophytes: *Acer pseudoplatanus**, *Agathis australis*, *Berberis glaucocarpa**, *Cordyline australis*, *Corynocarpus laevigatus*, *Kunzea* species, *Melicactus ramiflorus*, *Metrosideros excelsa*, *Myoporum laetum*, *Myrsine australis*, *Olearia furfuracea*, *Populus nigra**, *Pseudopanax arboreus*, and *Salix fragilis**.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Thallus lobate, dark green-black or blue-black, pulpy and conspicuous when wet, olive-brownish, dark-grey or grey-blue when dry, closely to loosely attached to bark or encircling twigs, orbicular to spreading, 2–8(15) cm diam. **Lobes** irregular, rounded to oblong, margins rounded, often ascending, thickened, inrolled, densely isidiate. **Upper surface** strongly ridged-plicate, ridges sharply defined, isidiate. Isidia cylindrical to coralloid, to 1 mm tall, densely crowded. **Lower surface** concolorous with upper surface or slightly paler, ridged-complicate, without tomental hairs. **Apothecia** not seen.



Dry state of *Leptogium coralloideum* corticolous in coastal scrub, North shore, Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 25/07/2019, Licence: CC BY-NC.



On planted tree on urban street titoki (*Alectryon excelsus* subsp. *excelsus*) in Mt Eden, Auckland. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 27/05/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

It differs from the rather similar *Leptogium brebissonii*, a species not present in New Zealand, mainly in having coralloid isidia on the laminal ridges, and in apothecial characters (Verdon 1990: 431; Jørgensen 1994: 6).

SUBSTRATE

Corticolous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (2 July 2020). Information in the Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features and Similar taxa sections copied from Galloway (2007).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Aptroot A. 2002: New and interesting lichens and lichenicolous fungi in Brazil. *Fungal Diversity* 9: 15–45.
- Galloway D.J. 1999: Notes on the genus *Leptogium* (Collemataceae, Ascomycota) in New Zealand. *Nova Hedwigia* 69: 317–35.
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- Jørgensen P.M. 1994: Further notes on European taxa of the lichen genus *Leptogium* with emphasis on the small species. *Lichenologist* 26: 1–29.
- Jørgensen P.M., Nash II T.H. 2004: *Leptogium*. In: Nash III, T.H.; Ryan, B.D.; Diederich, P.; Gries, C.; Bungartz, F. (Eds) *Lichen flora of the greater Sonoran Desert region*. Vol. II. Tempe, AZ, Lichens Unlimited, Arizona State University. Pp. 330–350.
- McCarthy P.M. 2003: Catalogue of Australian lichens. *Flora of Australia Supplementary Series* 19: 1–237.
- Swinscow T.D.V.; Krog, H. 1988: *Macrolichens of East Africa*. London, British Museum (Natural History).
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- Verdon D. 1992: *Leptogium*. *Flora of Australia* 54: 173–192.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leptogium-coralloideum/>