

SPECIES FACT SHEET

Common Name: pink-eyed mouse, shingle lichen.

Scientific Name: *Fuscopannaria saubinetii* (Mont.) P. M. Jørg.

Synonym: *Pannaria saubinetii* (Mont.) Nyl.

Division: Ascomycota

Class: Lecanoromycetes

Order: Peltigerales

Family: Pannariaceae

Note: This species not found in North America. Previous records misidentifications, most often *Fuscopannaria pacifica* (see below for details and references).

Technical Description: Thallus made of small (to 1 mm diameter), smooth, delicately incised, bluish leaf-like flaps (squamulose). The squamules have an upper cortex, a medulla with the cyanobacteria *Nostoc* (photobiont) and fungal hyphae, and no lower cortex. Apothecia convex, flesh-colored, to 0.5 mm diam., with a pale margin of fungal tissue (proper margin) but without an obvious ring of thallus-colored tissue around the edge (thalline margin). Hymenium reacts blue-green then turns red-brown rapidly in I. Asci with apical amyloid sheet (this is a microscopic character that takes acquired skill to locate). Spores simple, colorless, ellipsoid, 15-17x5-6 µm.

Other descriptions and illustrations: Jørgensen 1978, Brodo 2001.

Chemistry: All spot tests on thallus negative.

Distinctive Characters: (1) pale blue-gray, delicately incised squamules with small flesh-colored apothecia, (2) spores 15-17x5-6 µm, (3) asci with amyloid sheet.

Similar Species: Many *Pannaria* and *Fuscopannaria* species look similar and are very difficult to distinguish. *Fuscopannaria pacifica* is the species described from North America that is most often confused with *F. saubinetii*. *Fuscopannaria pacifica* has squamules that are brownish gray and minutely incised, lying on a black mat of hyphal strands. Its pale orangish brown convex apothecia lack a margin of thallus-colored tissue, the spores are 16-20x7-10 µm, and the asci have amyloid rings instead of an amyloid sheet. This species is very common in the Pacific Northwest in moist or wet forests at low to mid elevations, on the base of *Arbutus menziesii* and other hardwoods, conifers and rock. (Other descriptions and illustrations of *F. pacifica*: Jørgensen 2000, McCune & Geiser 2009.)

Range, Distribution, and Abundance: Southern Europe (Jørgensen 1978)
North American collections belong in *Fuscopannaria pacifica* P. M. Jørg. (Jørgensen 2000).

Habitat: base of large *Quercus* spp. and *Fagus* spp. in Mediterranean climate at low elevations.

Conservation Considerations: Although Jørgensen (2000) determined that collections from North America have not yet included this species, spore size and ascus structure of unusual-looking specimens should be checked.

Conservation rankings: Global: G4G5. National: no rank. ORNHIC: no rank. WNHP: no rank.

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References

Brodo, I., S. D. Sharnoff and S. Sharnoff. 2001. Lichens of North America. Yale University Press, New Haven.

Goward, T., B. McCune, & D. Meidinger. 1994. The lichens of British Columbia. Part I. British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Victoria, BC.

Jørgensen, P. M. 1978. The lichen family *Pannariaceae* in Europe. *Opera Botanica* 45: 1-128.

Jørgensen, P. M. 2000. Survey of the lichen family *Pannariaceae* on the American continent, North of Mexico. *Bryologist* 103: 670-704.

McCune, B and L. Geiser. 2009. Macrolichens of the Pacific Northwest.