Verrucaria australiensis P.M.McCarthy

Muelleria 7: 320 (1991)

T: by the Lincoln Hwy, 17 km S of Cowell, Eyre Penin., S.A., 23 Oct. 1970, R.B.Filson 11796; holo: MEL.

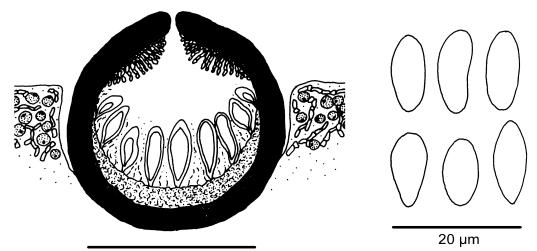
Illustration: P.M.McCarthy, op. cit. 321, fig. 2.

Thallus endolithic to subepilithic and diffuse-farinose, pale grey-green, ecorticate. Algae globose, 5–8 μ m diam. Prothallus and basal layer not apparent. Perithecia semi-immersed to almost completely immersed, 0.1–0.17 (–0.2) mm diam., black, leaving pits in the rock following their decay; apex rounded to somewhat pointed; ostiole inconspicuous. Involucrellum absent. Exciple 15–20 μ m thick and black at the apex and sides, 12–15 μ m thick and brown at the base. Centrum 0.08–0.12 (–0.14) mm wide. Periphyses 14–17 × 2–3 μ m. Asci 30–45 × 12–16 μ m. Ascospores ellipsoidal to elongate-ellipsoidal, 7.5–14 × 4–7 μ m.

An endemic species, known from maritime and seashore limestone in S.A., Vic. and Tas.

Vic.: Spray Point, Cape Schanck Coastal Park, Mornington Penin., *P.M.McCarthy 355* (MEL). Tas.: Erith Is., Kents Group, Bass Strait, *J.S.Whinray 2682* (MEL).

This lichen is characterised by its pale inconspicuous thallus, minute and immersed to semi-immersed perithecia that lack an involucrellum, and very small ellipsoidal ascospores.



0.1 mm

