

***Pertusaria leucothelia* Müll.Arg., *Bull. Herb. Boissier* 3: 637 (1895)**

T: Vic., *s. loc.*, 1887, *C.Knight* 174; holo: G.

Illustration: A.W.Archer, *Biblioth. Lichenol.* 69: 92, fig. 29 (1997).

Thallus pale greyish green, cracked, dull and smooth. Soredia and isidia absent. Apothecia inconspicuous, verruciform, sparse, scattered, irregularly hemispherical, 0.5–1.0 (–1.5) mm diam. Ostioles inconspicuous, pale, 1 or 2 per verruca. Ascospores 4 per ascus, ellipsoidal, rough, (75–) 87–97 × (30–) 35–42 µm.

Chemistry: Thallus K–, KC–, C–, Pd–; containing planaic acid (major), 4,5-dichloro-lichexanthone (minor), 2'-*O*-methylperlatolic acid (minor) and 2-*O*-methylperlatolic acid (trace).

An uncommon, endemic, corticolous species in N.S.W., A.C.T. and Vic.

N.S.W.: Oyster Shell Rd, 9 km N of Spencer, *A.W.Archer* P341 (NSW); Warrumbungles Natl Park, 25 km W of Coonabarabran, *W.H.Ewers* 3667 (CANB). A.C.T.: S of Paddys R., near Murrays Corner, *J.A.Elix* 655 (CANB). Vic.: Curran Ck, Nelson, 35 km SE of Mt Gambier, *W.H.Ewers* 6236 (CANB); Trawool, Tallarook Ra., Sept. 1885, *F.R.M.Wilson* (NSW).

The species is characterised by asci with 4 rough ascospores and the presence of planaic acid in the thallus. It is chemically similar to *P. planaica*, but that lichen has 8-spored asci.