

Pertusaria tropica Vain., *Cat. Welw. Afr. Pl.* 2: 404 (1901)

T: Pungo Andongo, Angola, 730–1160 m, 1857, *F. Welwitsch 429*; lecto: TUR-V 6672, *vide* A.W. Archer, *Biblioth. Lichenol.* 69: 211 (1997).

Illustration: A.W. Archer, *op. cit.* 214, fig. 80.

Thallus off-white to greyish white to greyish green, smooth or tuberculate, glossy, sometimes slightly areolate and cracked. Soredia and isidia absent. Apothecia disciform, often numerous and crowded, 0.6–1.5 (–2.0) mm diam.; discs dark but white-pruinose, sorediate when sterile. Ascospores 1 per ascus, ellipsoidal, (115–) 150–180 × (25–) 35–50 μm; wall 5–10 μm thick.

Chemistry: Thallus K+ violet, KC+ wine-red, C–, Pd–, UV+ yellow; containing hypothamnolic acid (major), ±lichexanthone (major); rarely with lichesterinic acid (minor).

Corticolous in north-eastern Qld; also in SW Africa, Thailand, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

Qld: track to Mt Lewis, 19 km NNW of Mt Malloy, *J.A. Elix 16902* (CANB); Dawes Ra., 53 km E of Biluela, *J.A. Elix 34747* (CANB); N end of Hinchinbrook Is., *G.N. Stevens s.n.* (BRI).

Pertusaria tropica is characterised by 1-spored asci and hypothamnolic acid in the thallus. The temperate Australasian *P. novaezelandiae* lacks lichexanthone.