**Verrucaria margacea** (Wahlenb.) Wahlenb.

*Fl. Lappon.* 465 (1812)


Thallus epilithic, continuous to very sparingly rimose, medium to dark grey-green, dark grey, or greenish black, matt, usually smooth, somewhat gelatinous when wetted and 20–40 (–60) µm thick. Algae ellipsoidal to globose, 6–13 x 6–10 µm. Prothallus usually not apparent, occasionally blackish; black basal layer absent. Perithecia prominent, dominated by a 0.25–0.64 mm diam. brown-black involucrellum that can be overgrown by a 20–60 µm thick thalline layer. Involucrellum extending to exciple base level, but diverging from the exciple, 40–80 µm thick. Exciple 15–25 (–30) µm thick, hyaline to pale brown at the base, medium to dark brown near the apex. Centrum 0.16–0.35 mm wide. Periphyses 18–35 x 1–2 µm. Asci 75–120 x 22–35 µm. Ascospores ellipsoidal, broadly ellipsoidal or subglobose, 18–34 (–40) x 9–19 µm.

Occurs on aquatic siliceous rocks in alpine and coastal areas of eastern and south-eastern N.S.W. Also known from western Eurasia and North America, India, New Guinea, China (Hong Kong) and New Zealand.

N.S.W.: track from Charlotte Pass to Blue L., Mt Kosciuszko State Park, 1968, W.A. Weber & D. McVean (COLO); Endrick R., beside Braidwood–Nowra road, 4 km NE of Nerriga, P.M. McCarthy 482 (MEL); Pollblue Ck, Stewarts Brook State Forest, 74 km E of Scone, P.M. McCarthy 562, 565, 566 (MEL).

*Verrucaria margacea* is rather similar in outward appearance to the more common *V. hydrela* but the perithecia and ascospores are significantly larger. The Tasmanian *V. tholocarpa* has a thicker and paler thallus, a thicker involucrellum and longer periphyses and ascospores.