**Verrucaria tholocarpa** P.M.McCarthy


T: Vale R., Vale of Belvoir, 5 km NE of Mayday Mount, Tas., 21 May 1993, *P.M.McCarthy 655 & G.Kantvilas*; holo: MEL; iso: HO, MEL.

Illustration: P.M.McCarthy, *op. cit.* 122, fig. 7.

Thallus subepilithic to epilithic, continuous to areolate, smooth, matt, pale to medium greenish brown, 40–80 (~100) µm thick, ecorrcticate or with an uppermost layer of globose 3–5 µm diam. cells. Algae subglobose to globose, 5–10 × 5–8 µm. Prothallus not apparent; basal layer absent. Perithecia semi-immersed to one-third immersed, hemispherical to subglobose, (0.27–) 0.38 (~0.52) mm diam., black; apex rounded; ostiole usually in a shallow 60–100 (~140) µm wide depression. Involucrellum usually contiguous with the exciple, 60–100 µm thick. Exciple 20–30 µm thick, hyaline at the base, darkening towards the apex. Centrum 0.2–0.35 mm wide. Periphyses 30–60 × 1.5–3.5 µm. Asci 90–128 × 26–35 µm. Ascospores elongate-ellipsoidal to broadly ellipsoidal, occasionally subcylindrical or clavate, 26–47 × 11–20 µm.

Endemic to northern Tas. where it grows on aquatic limestone.

Tas.: bridge on Olivers Rd, Mersey R., 3 km S of Liena, *P.M.McCarthy 640, 642 & G.Kantvilas* (MEL).

A distinctive aquatic species with a comparatively pale thallus, moderately large prominent perithecia with a thick involucrellum, long periphyses and very large ascospores.