

## PHYLLOBLASTIA

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*Phylloblastia* Vain., *Ann. Acad. Sci. Fenn.*, ser. A, 15(6): 323 (1921).

Type: *P. dolichospora* Vain.

*Pocsia* Vězda, *Folia Geobot. Phytotax.* 10: 401 (1975). T: *P. marattiae* Vězda.

Thallus crustose, rarely minutely squamulose, foliicolous, rarely corticolous (not in Australia), epicuticular, with or without discoid or scutelliform isidia, usually ecorticate. Algae apparently trentepohlioid or resembling a non-radiating *Phycopeltis*. Perithecia superficial, hemispherical to subglobose,  $\pm$ concolorous with the thallus or orange-brown to brown to  $\pm$ black. Involucrellum indistinct to well-developed, paraplectenchymatous; excipulum hyaline or concolorous with the involucrellum. Paraphyses absent or sparse and simple in immature perithecia, absent at maturity. Periphyses absent or well-developed. Asci fissitunicate, elongate-cylindrical or narrowly clavate, 8-spored, thin-walled at the sides; apex thicker; ocular chamber broad and shallow or not apparent. Ascospores fusiform to elongate-cylindrical, 3–15-septate or muriform (median cells), colourless, thin-walled. Pycnidia usually not seen; in *P. mucronata* resembling minute ascomata in appearance and producing or curved-acicular conidia.

A pantropical and subtropical genus of 11 species (Lücking, 2008). Four species occur in tropical and subtropical rainforest in eastern Australia; a fifth, *P. mucronata* P.M.McCarthy, is known from Lord Howe Is. and Christmas Is.

Following the recent synonymisation of *Pocsia* with *Phylloblastia* (Lücking, 2008), doubts remain regarding the systematic position of *Phylloblastia*, or at least some of the species currently assigned to it. These centre on anomalies in the photobiont and pycnidia. Thus, the algae of *P. borhidii* and *P. triseptata* appear chlorococcoid (the type found in most Verrucariaceae); however those of the Australian specimen of *P. septemseptata* are certainly filamentous and very similar to *Trentepohlia*. Moreover, although pycnidia are unknown most species, in *P. mucronata* the conidia are curved-acicular and  $40\text{--}52 \times 2 \mu\text{m}$ , i.e. very different to the oblong or short-bacilliform type known from genera such as *Endocarpon*, *Placidium* or *Verrucaria*.

E.A.Vainio, Lichenes insularum Philippinarum III, *Ann. Acad. Sci. Fenn.*, ser. A, 15(6): 1–368 (1921); R.Santesson, Foliicolous lichens I. A revision of the taxonomy of the obligately foliicolous, lichenized fungi, *Symb. Bot. Upsal.* 12(1): 1–590 (1952); A.Vězda, Foliikole Flechten aus Tanzania (Ost-Afrika), *Folia Geobot. Phytotax.* 10: 383–432 (1975); A.Vězda, Foliikole Flechten aus Zaïre (II). Zwei neue Arten der Gattung *Pocsia*, *Folia Geobot. Phytotax.* 17: 387–392 (1982); A.Vězda & K.Kalb, Beiträge zur Kenntnis der foliikolen Flechten australischer Regenwälder III, *Nova Hedwigia* 53: 215–228 (1991); K.Kalb & A.Vězda, Neue foliicole Flechten I, *Nova Hedwigia* 55: 195–209 (1992); R.Lücking & K.Kalb, Foliikole Flechten aus Brasilien (vornehmlich Amazonien), inklusiv einer Checkliste zu *Coenogonium* und *Dimerella* (Gyalectaceae), *Bot. Jahrb. Syst.* 122: 1–61 (2000); R.Lücking, Foliicolous lichenized fungi, *Fl. Neotropica Monogr.* 103: 1–867 (2008).

1	Ascospores muriform.....	<b>P. dolichospora</b>
1:	Ascospores transversely septate.....	2
2	Thallus usually isidiate, often sterile.....	<b>P. borhidii</b>
2:	Thallus lacking isidia, commonly fertile.....	3
3	Ascospores 3-septate.....	<b>P. triseptata</b>
3:	Ascospores with 7 or more septa.....	4
4	Ascospores 7-septate.....	<b>P. septemseptata</b>
4	Ascospores (7–)11–13(–15)-septate.....	<b>P. mucronata</b>