

Verrucaria praetermissa (Trevis.) Anzi

Comm. Soc. Crittog. Ital. 2(1): 24: (1864)

Leiophloea praetermissa Trevis., *Conspect. Verruc.* 10 (1860). T: Central Europe; lecto: L n.v., fide T.D.V.Swinscow, *Lichenologist* 4: 43 (1968).

Illustrations: T.D.V.Swinscow, *loc. cit.* fig. 2; E.G.Kopachevskaya, M.F.Makarevicz & A.N.Oxner, *Opredelidetel' Lishainikov SSSR. vol. 4. Verrucariaceae-Pilocarpaceae* 38, fig. 30 (1977).

Thallus epilithic, rimose to areolate, pale greyish white to pale grey-green, 60–200 μm thick; areolae 0.3–0.8 (–1.4) mm wide, angular, irregular, plane to slightly convex, corticate. Algae ellipsoidal, 5–9 \times 4–7 μm . Prothallus discontinuous and dark brown or not apparent; basal layer brown-black, 30–100 (–140) μm thick. Perithecia almost completely immersed, 0.18–0.3 mm diam., black; apex plane to convex; ostiole inconspicuous or in a broad shallow depression. Involucrellum contiguous with the exciple, extending down to merge with the basal layer, 50–70 μm thick. Exciple c. 15–20 μm thick, hyaline to pale greenish brown. Centrum 0.15–0.2 mm wide. Periphyses 30–50 \times 1.5–2.5 μm . Asci 55–70 \times 17–25 μm . Ascospores narrowly ellipsoidal to subcylindrical, 15–24 \times 6.5–9.5 μm .

Known from eastern Qld and eastern N.S.W.; grows on deeply shaded, aquatic and semi-aquatic rocks. Also in central, western and northern Europe, North America, China (Hong Kong), New Guinea, New Zealand and the South Pacific Ocean (including Lord Howe Island).

Qld: tributary of Beatrice R., below Souita Falls, 12 km SSE of Millaa Millaa, Atherton Tableland, *P.M.McCarthy* 843 (MEL); Little Crystal Ck, Mount Spec Natl Park, 36 km S of Ingham, *P.M.McCarthy* 807 (MEL); between Paradise Falls and Little Falls, Bunya Mountains Natl Park, *P.M.McCarthy* 764 (MEL); Canungra Ck, below Boxlog Falls, Green Mtns, Lamington Natl Park, *P.M.McCarthy* 735 (MEL). N.S.W.: tributary of Karuah R., 1.5 km SE of Red Cedar Ck, Chichester State Forest, *P.M.McCarthy* 525, 530 (MEL).

Verrucaria praetermissa is one of only a few aquatic *Verrucaria* species with very pale, areolate thalli. It is further characterised by a thick black basal layer and small immersed perithecia.

