

## PLACIDIUM

*O. Breuss*

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*Placidium* A. Massal., *Symm. Lich.* 25 (1855), from the Greek *plax* (a plate), or the Latin *placidus* (flat), in reference to the appressed squamae.

Type: *P. michellii* A. Massal.

Thallus squamose. Squamae scattered, contiguous or imbricate, loosely or closely attached, rounded to irregular, entire to deeply lobed, corticate above, with or without a lower cortex, anchored by a mat of rhizohyphae (with additional rhizines in some species). Upper cortex paraplectenchymatous, 30–100 µm thick, sharply delimited from the algal layer, comprising angular, isodiametric or slightly anticlinally elongated cells. Perithecia immersed in the squamae, broadly pyriform to subglobose, to 0.5 (–0.65) mm diam., without an involucrellum. Asci cylindrical, 8-spored. Ascospores uniseriate, ellipsoidal, broadly ellipsoidal or subglobose, simple, colourless. Pycnidia laminal and immersed or marginal and protruding, of *Xanthoria*-type (*sensu* G. Vobis, *Biblioth. Lichenol.* 14: 1–141, 1980). Conidia oblong-ellipsoidal or bacilliform.

Formerly included in *Catapyrenium*, *Placidium* was recently resurrected (Breuss, 1996). It is characterised by the anatomy of the upper cortex and the occurrence of cylindrical asci with uniseriate ascospores. The genus comprises 28 species, mainly in arid to cool-temperate regions; most grow on soil, plant debris or bryophytes, rarely on bark. Three species are known in Australia.

O. Breuss, Die Flechtengattung *Catapyrenium* (Verrucariaceae) in Europa, *Stappia* 23: 1–174 (1990); O. Breuss, Ein verfeinertes Gliederungskonzept für *Catapyrenium* (lichenisierte Ascomyceten, Verrucariaceae), *Ann. Naturhist. Mus. Wien* 98B, Suppl.: 35–50 (1996).

- 1 Squamae anchored by a rhizohyphal mat and whitish or pale brown rhizines ..... **1. P. lacinulatum**
- 1: Squamae anchored by a rhizohyphal mat only ..... 2
- 2 Pycnidia marginal, protruding(1:) ..... **2. P. pilosellum**
- 2: Pycnidia laminal, immersed ..... **3. P. squamulosum**