

***Pertusaria mesotropa* Müll.Arg., *Flora* 67: 350 (1884)**

T: Ceylon [Sri Lanka], 1876, *G.H.K.Thwaites s.n.*; holo: G [Leighton, *Lich. Ceylon*. no. 67].

*Pertusaria paragibberosa* A.W.Archer, *Mycotaxon* 41: 236 (1991). T: Nonbah property, c. 4 km W of Hume Hwy, 20 km N of Holbrook, N.S.W., 31 May 1975, *R.Filson 15364*; holo: MEL.

Illustration: A.W.Archer, *op. cit.* 229, fig. 6, as *P. paragibberosa*.

Thallus pale olive-green, wrinkled, somewhat cracked, dull. Soredia and isidia absent. Apothecia conspicuous, verruciform, concolorous with the thallus, scattered or occasionally confluent, hemispherical to flattened-hemispherical, not constricted at the base, 0.5–1.5 mm diam. Ostioles inconspicuous, dark brown, punctiform, somewhat mammiform, 1 or 2 per verruca. Ascospores 8 per ascus, irregularly uniseriate or biseriate, elongate-ellipsoidal to subfusiform, smooth, 75–100 (–117) × 30–40 µm.

*Chemistry*: Thallus K–, KC–, C–, Pd–; containing 4,5-dichlorolichexanone (major) and 2'-*O*-methylperlatolic acid (major).

An uncommon but widely distributed corticolous species in Qld, N.S.W. and Vic.; also in Sri Lanka.

Qld: Four-Mile Beach, 1 km S of Port Douglas, *D.Verdon 5443* (CANB); Dawes Ra., 53 km E of Biloela, *J.A.Elix 345752* (CANB). N.S.W.: Chaelundi Mtn, 37 km N of Ebor, *D.Verdon 3896* (CANB); Deniliquin S.F., *M.Fox 8411123* (NSW). Vic.: Wangaratta, Nov. 1897, *F.R.M.Wilson s.n.* (NSW).

The species is characterised by 8-spored asci and the presence of 4,5-dichlorolichexanone and 2'-*O*-methylperlatolic acid in the thallus. It is distinguished from the morphologically similar *P. novaehollandiae* and *P. paradoxica* which contain miriquidic acid and 4-*O*-methylisocryptochlorophaeic acid, respectively.