

## THELIDIUM

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*Thelidium* A.Massal., *Framm. Lichenogr.* 12 (1855); from the Greek *thele* (a teat or nipple) and the suffix *-idium* (indicating diminutive); in reference to the appearance of the perithecia of many species.

Type: *T. amylaceum* (Trevis.) A.Massal.

Thallus crustose, immersed in the substratum to superficial, continuous to areolate, usually ecorticate, with or without a visible prothallus. Perithecia immersed to superficial, with or without a brown to black involucrellum. Exciple hyaline to brown-black. Asci 8-spored, clavate to cylindroclavate. Ascospores colourless, thin-walled, with 1–3 (–5) transverse septa, occasionally with 1–3 longitudinal or oblique septa. Conidiomata not seen.

A mainly cool-temperate genus of c. 100 species, *Thelidium* is most diverse in the Northern Hemisphere. Three species are known from south-eastern Australia.

*Thelidium* is characterised by a crustose thallus, black perithecia and transversely septate to submuriform colourless ascospores. However, it remains poorly differentiated from *Polyblastia* (*q.v.*) in which the ascospores are submuriform to fully muriform and range from colourless to dark brown.

A.Orange, *Thelidium pluvium* (Verrucariaceae), a new lichenized species from north-west Europe, *Lichenologist* 23: 99–106 (1991); A.Orange, *Lich. Fl. Great Britain & Ireland* 595–598 (1992).