

**Verrucaria aucklandica** Zahlbr.

*Denkschr. Akad. Wiss. Wien Math.-Naturwiss. Kl.* 104: 250 (1941)

T: Anawhata, New Zealand, *L.M.Cranwell* 195; holo: W; iso: CHR.

*Verrucaria tesselatuloidea* P.M.McCarthy, *Muelleria* 7: 330 (1991). T: Cape Bruny, Tas., 7 Aug. 1971, *G.C.Bratt* 71/1089; holo: HO.

Illustration: P.M.McCarthy, *op. cit.* 329, fig. 7, as *V. tesselatuloidea*.

Thallus epilithic, rimose to areolate, grey-brown to greenish brown, smooth, matt to slightly glossy, 50–200 µm thick; areolae angular, plane to slightly convex, 0.2–1 mm wide; cracks with blackish walls. Algae broadly ellipsoidal to subglobose, 5–12 × 5–9 µm. Prothallus and basal layer not apparent. Perithecia convex to hemispherical, 1/3–2/3 immersed, 0.2–0.45 mm diam., dull black; apex concave to convex; ostiole brown, 30–100 µm wide. Involucrellum extending mid-way down the exciple to exciple base level, 50–100 µm thick. Exciple 15–25 µm thick, pale to dark brown. Centrum 0.11–0.25 mm wide. Periphyses 25–45 × 1 µm. Asci 30–42 × 10–15 µm. Ascospores narrowly to broadly ellipsoidal, 8–13 × 4.5–8 µm.

Known from maritime siliceous rocks in western and southern Tas. Also in New Zealand.

Tas.: Cape Sorell, May 1971, *J.E.S.Townrow* (HO); Cape Bruny, *G.C.Bratt* 71/1090 (HO).

*Verrucaria tessellatula* Nyl., a rather common maritime lichen in the Subantarctic, exhibits very similar thallus morphology and anatomy. However, the perithecia are immersed, less than 0.2 mm diam., the involucrellum is thin and apical and the ascospores are larger.

