

**Verrucaria dufourii DC.**

in J.B.A.P. de M. de Lamarck & A.P. de Candolle, *Fl. Franç.*, 3rd edn, 2: 318 (1805)

T: Europe; holo: G? *n.v.*

Thallus endolithic to subepilithic, continuous to sparingly rimose, pale grey, grey-green or pale to medium grey-brown, usually smooth and matt to slightly glossy. Algae ±globose, 6–12 µm diam. Prothallus usually a blackish line that delimits and sometimes divides thalli, occasionally not apparent; basal layer absent. Perithecia semi-immersed to superficial, hemispherical to subconical, 0.3–0.4 (–0.5) mm diam., dull to glossy black; apex plane, concave or deeply excavate, rarely convex. Involucrellum extending mid-way down or as far as exciple base level, usually contiguous with the exciple, 40–80 (–100) µm thick. Exciple 15–25 µm thick, hyaline to dark brown, rarely ±black. Centrum 0.2–0.35 mm wide. Periphyses 20–30 × c. 1.5 µm. Asci 50–65 × 14–20 µm. Ascospores ellipsoidal to narrowly clavate, 12–23 × 5–10 µm.

Occurs on maritime limestone in Tas. Also found throughout western Eurasia, and in New Zealand.

Tas.: Deal Is., Kents Group, Bass Strait, 8 Dec. 1971, *J.S. Whinray* (MEL).

This species is characterised by a largely immersed thallus and moderately large and prominent perithecia that frequently have a concave to deeply excavate apex. The Tasmanian endemic *V. tuberculiformis* has even more prominent perithecia, but these are smaller and they contain smaller ascospores.

