

Verrucaria hochstetteri Fr.

Lich. Eur. 435 (1831)

T: Europe; *n.v.*

Thallus endolithic, continuous or faintly rimose near the perithecia, pale grey to pale greyish green. Algae globose, 6–12 μm diam. Prothallus usually not apparent, occasionally dark brown (not in Australian specimens). Perithecia almost completely immersed in the substratum, 0.3–0.6 mm diam., leaving black pits in the rock following their decay (the pits lined with the blackish basal part of the exciple); apex 0.2–0.3 (–0.4) mm diam., plane to slightly convex; ostiole inconspicuous. Involucrellum absent. Exciple 20–35 μm thick, dark brown to black. Centrum 0.25–0.5 mm wide. Periphyses 35–55 μm long. Asci 80–120 \times 25–35 μm . Ascospores narrowly to broadly ellipsoidal, 20–48 \times 10–25 μm . Fig. 59.

Occurs on limestone in southern S.A. and southern Vic. Found throughout Europe and in North Africa and East Asia; there is also an old and doubtful record from New Caledonia.

S.A.: Colona HS, near Fowlers Bay, Aug. 1947, *J.H. Willis* (MEL). Vic.: Point Wilson, near Geelong, Mar. 1980, *A. Geddes* (MEL).

This species is characterised its endolithic thallus, large immersed perithecia that lack an involucrellum, the black-based pits of old perithecia, and very large ascospores.

