

**Verrucaria hydrela Ach.**

*Syn. Meth. Lich.* 94 (1814)

T: Europe; holo: H-ACH *n.v.*

Illustration: T.D.V.Swinscow *Lichenologist* 4: 49, fig. 7 (1968).

Thallus epilithic, continuous to sparingly rimose, medium grey-green to dark green, slightly gelatinous when wetted and 20–40 (–60)  $\mu\text{m}$  thick. Algae subglobose to globose, 4–9  $\times$  4–7  $\mu\text{m}$ . Prothallus not apparent; black basal layer absent. Perithecia 1/3 immersed to superficial, 0.2–0.5 mm diam., black; apex rounded to slightly pointed; ostiole inconspicuous or in a shallow depression. Involucrellum diverging from the exciple and extending to exciple base level, 30–45  $\mu\text{m}$  thick, brown-black in thin section, usually with a 15–25  $\mu\text{m}$  thick thalline covering. Exciple 15–25  $\mu\text{m}$  thick, usually hyaline at the base, occasionally dark brown near the ostiole. Centrum 0.13–0.25 mm wide. Periphyses 20–50  $\times$  1–2.5  $\mu\text{m}$ . Asci 58–88  $\times$  17–25  $\mu\text{m}$ . Ascospores narrowly to broadly ellipsoidal, 15–27  $\times$  6.5–12  $\mu\text{m}$ .

One of the most common and abundant aquatic lichens in south-eastern Australia; found in coastal N.S.W. as well as the A.C.T., Vic. and Tas.; rare in south-eastern Qld. Known throughout most of central and northern Europe, it has also been reported from North America, New Guinea and New Zealand.

Qld: between Paradise Falls and Little Falls, Bunya Mountains Natl Park, *P.M.McCarthy* 763 (MEL). N.S.W.: Yarrowich R., above Yarrowbindi Falls, 7 km NE of Yarrowich, New England Tableland, *P.M.McCarthy* 550 (MEL). A.C.T.: near confluence of Grassy Ck and Naas Ck, Booth Ra., 24 km SSW of Canberra, *D.Verdon* 5036 (CANB). Vic.: Whites Ck, 1 km upstream of confluence with Tyers R., 19 Apr. 1989, *P.M.McCarthy* (MEL). Tas.: Mersey R., 3 km S of Liena, Great Western Tiers, *P.M.McCarthy* 656 & *G.Kantvilas* (MEL).

