

Verrucaria inquilina P.M.McCarthy

Australas. Lichenol. 66: 9 (2010)

T: Cambewarra Mtn, Morton Natl Park, Central Tablelands, N.S.W., 34°47'01"S, 150°33'25", alt. 330 m, *P.M.McCarthy* 2700; holo: NSW; iso: CANB.

Illustration: P.M.McCarthy, *op. cit.* 15, fig. 5

Thallus probably epicuticular, pale greyish green to pale green, 1–2 (–3) mm wide, usually not coalescing to form larger colonies, c. 10–15 μm thick, ecorticate; surface continuous, matt, \pm smooth to minutely uneven. Algae chlorococcoid; cells \pm globose, 6–12 (–14) μm diam., densely clustered. Prothallus not apparent. Perithecia superficial, initially convex, becoming hemispherical to subconical, (0.25–) 0.39 (–0.59) mm diam., smooth to minutely and irregularly uneven, jet-black, dull to glossy, becoming brittle and hollow when post-mature, the base scarcely overgrown by the thallus. Involucrellum extending to excipulum base level, greenish black to black in thin section, 60–90 μm thick, contiguous with the excipulum in the upper half of the perithecium, spreading slightly below. Perithecial apex plane to convex; ostiole inconspicuous or in a narrow and shallow depression. Excipulum dark olive-brown to blackish, 15–25 μm thick, firmly and persistently attached to the epidermis of the host. Centrum obpyriform to subconical, c. 0.15–0.30 mm diam., IKI+ orange-brown. Periphyses 20–30 \times 2–3 μm , simple to sparingly branched. Asci narrowly clavate, rarely seen intact, 68–78 \times 16–20 μm . Ascospores broadly ellipsoidal to subglobose, irregularly biseriolate, (9–) 12 (–14) \times (7.0–) 8.5 (–10.0) μm ; contents granulose and, frequently, guttulate.

Known only from the type locality in south-eastern N.S.W.; grows on leaves of *Ficus coronata* on roadside in temperate rainforest.

Verrucaria inquilina is the only known foliicolous species in this large, cosmopolitan genus. Apart from the novelty of its substratum, it is characterised by its comparatively large and prominent perithecia and unusually small broadly ellipsoid to subglobose ascospores.

