

**Verrucaria margacea** (Wahlenb.) Wahlenb.

*Fl. Lappon.* 465 (1812)

*Thelotrema margaceum* Wahlenb., in E.Acharius, *Methodus* 30 (1803). T: Europe; holo: UPS *n.v.*

Illustration: T.D.V.Swinscow, *Lichenologist* 4: 48, fig. 6 (1968).

Thallus epilithic, continuous to very sparingly rimose, medium to dark grey-green, dark grey, or greenish black, matt, usually smooth, somewhat gelatinous when wetted and 20–40 (–60)  $\mu\text{m}$  thick. Algae ellipsoidal to globose, 6–13  $\times$  6–10  $\mu\text{m}$ . Prothallus usually not apparent, occasionally blackish; black basal layer absent. Perithecia prominent, dominated by a 0.25–0.64 mm diam. brown-black involucrellum that can be overgrown by a 20–60  $\mu\text{m}$  thick thalline layer. Involucrellum extending to exciple base level, but diverging from the exciple, 40–80  $\mu\text{m}$  thick. Exciple 15–25 (–30)  $\mu\text{m}$  thick, hyaline to pale brown at the base, medium to dark brown near the apex. Centrum 0.16–0.35 mm wide. Periphyses 18–35  $\times$  1–2  $\mu\text{m}$ . Asci 75–120  $\times$  22–35  $\mu\text{m}$ . Ascospores ellipsoidal, broadly ellipsoidal or subglobose, 18–34 (–40)  $\times$  9–19  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Occurs on aquatic siliceous rocks in alpine and coastal areas of eastern and south-eastern N.S.W. Also known from western Eurasia and North America, India, New Guinea, China (Hong Kong) and New Zealand.

N.S.W.: track from Charlotte Pass to Blue L., Mt Kosciuszko State Park, 1968, W.A.Weber & D.McVean (COLO); Endrick R., beside Braidwood–Nowra road, 4 km NE of Nerriga, P.M.McCarthy 482 (MEL); Pollblue Ck, Stewarts Brook State Forest, 74 km E of Scone, P.M.McCarthy 562, 565, 566 (MEL).

*Verrucaria margacea* is rather similar in outward appearance to the more common *V. hydrela* but the perithecia and ascospores are significantly larger. The Tasmanian *V. tholocarpa* has a thicker and paler thallus, a thicker involucrellum and longer periphyses and ascospores.

