

## **Verrucaria meridionalis** P.M.McCarthy

*Muelleria* 8: 103 (1994)

T: Wagonga Inlet picnic site, 7 km E of Narooma, Bodalla State Forest, Narooma District, N.S.W., 5 Feb. 1991, *P.M.McCarthy* 475; holo: MEL; iso: NSW.

Illustration: P.M.McCarthy, *op. cit.* 104, fig. 3.

Thallus epilithic, filmy, continuous, dark olive-green to black, 15–30  $\mu\text{m}$  thick, ecorticate. Algae broadly ellipsoidal to globose, 4–7  $\times$  4–6  $\mu\text{m}$ . Prothallus black, discontinuous; basal layer absent. Perithecia superficial, hemispherical to subglobose, 0.24–0.45 mm diam., black; apex rounded; ostiole inconspicuous. Involucrellum contiguous with the exciple, usually at least partly covered by a thin layer of thallus, 30–60  $\mu\text{m}$  thick at the apex, 70–100  $\mu\text{m}$  thick at the base. Exciple 18–25  $\mu\text{m}$  thick, brown-black. Centrum 0.15–0.2 mm wide. Periphyses 25–40  $\times$  1.5–2.5  $\mu\text{m}$ . Asci 36–42  $\times$  12–17  $\mu\text{m}$ . Ascospores ellipsoidal to  $\pm$ globose, 7–12.5  $\times$  5.5–10.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Occurs in south-eastern N.S.W.; an intertidal species growing on shale in the upper littoral. Also in Lord Howe Island.

*Verrucaria sessilis* P.M.McCarthy occupies similar habitats in New Zealand. However, that species has a markedly crateriform perithecial apex, an involucrellum that completely encloses the exciple, longer asci and persistently ellipsoidal ascospores of 9–16  $\times$  6–8  $\mu\text{m}$ .

