

Verrucaria mundula P.M.McCarthy

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T: off Wards River–Berrico trig. road, Karuah R., 19 km W of Stratford, Chichester State Forest [Northern Tablelands], N.S.W., 9 Feb. 1991, *P.M.McCarthy* 517; holo: MEL.

Thallus epilithic, diffuse to determinate, continuous to sparingly rimose, matt, smooth to minutely uneven, medium green to greenish black, 15–40 µm thick, ecorticate. Algae globose, 4–12 µm diam. Prothallus and basal layer not apparent. Perithecia subglobose, 1/3 immersed to superficial, 0.12–0.2 mm diam., dull to glossy black; apex usually rounded; ostiole inconspicuous or in a 20–40 µm wide depression. Involucrellum contiguous with the exciple, brown-black in section, 25–35 µm thick. Exciple 15–20 µm thick, usually hyaline to pale brown. Centrum 0.08–0.11 mm wide. Periphyses 15–24 × 1–2 µm. Ascospores narrowly to broadly ellipsoidal, subpanduriform, subcylindrical, obovate or subglobose.

Grows on moderately to deeply shaded aquatic and semi-aquatic shale, slate, sandstone, dolerite and rhyolite. A rather common species in eastern Qld, eastern N.S.W. and Tas.; also in the eastern Indoian Ocean, the South Pacific and Spain.

Two varieties are recognised.

- Asci c. 35–40 × 13–16 µm; ascospores 8.5–14.5 × 3.5–7.5 µm var. **mundula**
- Asci 28–35 × 10–15 µm; ascospores 6–10.5 × 4.5–6.5 µm var. **deminuta**

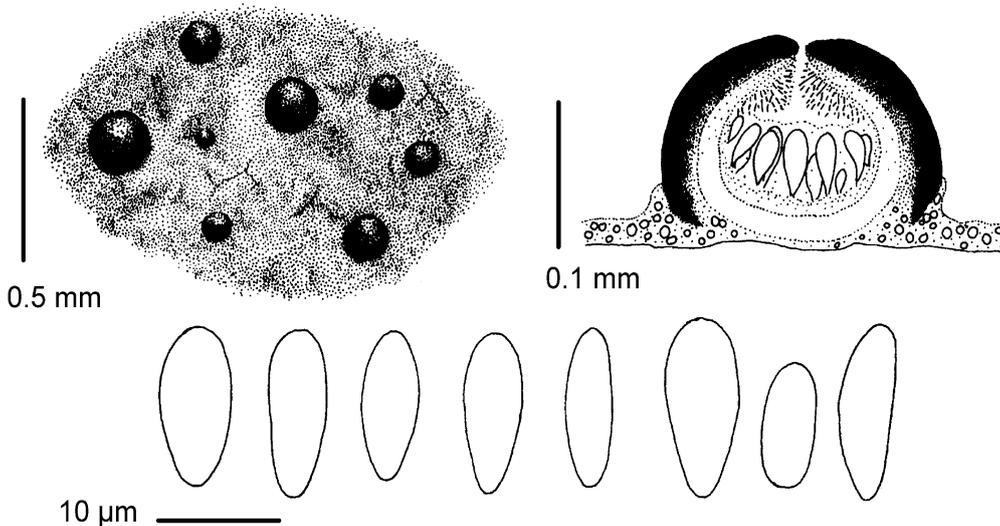
Verrucaria mundula P.M.McCarthy var. **mundula**

Illustration: P.M.McCarthy, *op. cit.* 114, fig. 4A–C.

Asci c. 35–40 × 13–16 µm. Ascospores mostly narrowly ellipsoidal to subcylindrical, 8.5–14.5 × 3.5–7.5 µm.

The more common of the two varieties, it is found along the Great Dividing Range from north-eastern Qld to south-eastern N.S.W. and in eastern Tas. Also in Christmas Island, Lord Howe Island, Rarotonga (Cook Islands) and Spain.

Qld: between Paradise Falls and Little Falls, Bunya Mountains Natl Park, *P.M.McCarthy* 762 (MEL); Little Crystal Ck, Mount Spec Natl Park, 36 km S of Ingham, *P.M.McCarthy* 809 (MEL). N.S.W.: Cowdroy Ck, 6 km W of Narooma, Bodalla State Forest, *P.M.McCarthy* 477 (MEL); Sagers Ck, 8 km NNE of Stroud, *P.M.McCarthy* 513 (MEL). Tas.: Little Swanport R., 4 km E of Little Swanport, *P.M.McCarthy* 608 & *G.Kantvilas* (MEL).



Verrucaria mundula var. **deminuta** P.M.McCarthy

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T: Burnett Ck, beyond Maroon Dam and below Maroon Falls, near road to sawmill, Mt Barney area, Qld, 4 Sept. 1993, *P.M.McCarthy* 738; holo: MEL; iso: BRI.

Illustration: P.M.McCarthy, *op. cit.* 114, fig. 4D.

Asci 28–35 × 10–15 μm. Ascospores broadly ellipsoidal, subpanduriform, obovate or subglobose, 6–10.5 × 4.5–6.5 μm.

This variety is known from two localities in south-eastern Qld.

Qld: between Paradise Falls and Little Falls, Bunya Mountains Natl Park, *P.M.McCarthy* 761 (MEL).

The asci and ascospores are smaller than those of var. *mundula*.

