

**Verrucaria muralis** Ach.

*Methodus* 115 (1803)

T: Europe; *n.v.*

Illustration: G.Clauzade & C.Roux, *Bull. Soc. Bot. Centre-Ouest*, n.s., numéro spécial 7: 792, fig. 392 (1985).

Thallus endolithic to subepilithic, continuous to obscurely rimose, pale grey, grey-green or grey-brown. Algae globose, 7–11  $\mu\text{m}$  diam. Prothallus usually not apparent. Perithecia usually semi-immersed in the substratum, 0.25–0.5 (–0.6) mm diam., black; apex usually rounded; ostiole inconspicuous, plane to somewhat concave. Involucrellum extending mid-way down the exciple or down to exciple base level, 40–80  $\mu\text{m}$  thick. Exciple 20–25  $\mu\text{m}$  thick, hyaline to pale brown. Centrum 0.2–0.4 mm wide. Periphyses 25–35  $\times$  1–2  $\mu\text{m}$  long. Asci 60–80  $\times$  20–25  $\mu\text{m}$ . Ascospores narrowly to broadly ellipsoidal, 19–28  $\times$  9–15  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Occurs in S.A., south-eastern N.S.W., Vic. and Tas., usually on rather soft or weathered limestone. A common species in northern Eurasia and North America, China, Japan and New Zealand.

S.A.: Newland Head, 35°37'S, 138°31'E, *G.Kantvilas* 320/07 (HO 545877). N.S.W.: head of Neringla Ck, near Krawaree, 3 km NE of The Big Hole, 19 Mar. 1968, *W.A.Weber* & *D.McVean* (COLO); London Bridge, 18 km S of Queanbeyan, *J.A.Elix* 33106 & *H.Mayrhofer* (CANB). Vic.: Warrnambool, Sept. 1885, *F.R.M.Wilson* (NSW); off old Walhalla–Tyers road, Boola Forest, Tyers area, *P.M.McCarthy* 7 (MEL). Tas.: Arthur-Pieman Protected Area, 35 km NNE of Savage R., *J.A.Elix* 40075 & *G.Kantvilas* (CANB).

A rather variable species with an extensive synonymy in the Northern Hemisphere; in Australia it is readily distinguished by the combination of inconspicuous thallus, comparatively large perithecia and moderately large ellipsoidal ascospores.

