

Verrucaria nigrescens Pers.

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Illustration: G.Clauzade & C.Roux, *Bull. Soc. Bot. Centre-Ouest*, n.s., numéro spécial 7: 806, fig. 400 (1985).

Thallus epilithic, diffuse to determinate, rimose to areolate, medium green, dark olive-green or greenish black, matt, smooth to uneven, 30–60 (–100) μm thick, usually with a black basal layer that can often be seen at the edges of areolae and is continuous with a prothallus; areolae angular to rounded, plane to slightly convex, very rarely concave, 0.08–0.3 (–0.5) mm wide. Algae globose, 5–9 μm diam. Perithecia 1/3–2/3 immersed, sometimes partly overgrown by the thallus, 0.2–0.4 (–0.5) mm diam., brown-black; apex usually rounded; ostiole inconspicuous or slightly depressed. Involucrellum extending mid-way down or to exciple base level and merging with the basal layer, 30–50 μm thick. Exciple brown-black, 15–20 μm thick. Centrum 0.15–0.25 mm wide. Periphyses simple, 20–35 \times 1.5–3 μm . Asci 60–85 \times 16–25 μm . Ascospores narrowly to broadly ellipsoidal, 18–30 \times 8–15 μm .

Occurs mainly on limestone in south-eastern Australia, occasionally on siliceous rocks, rarely on soil. A common lichen in western Eurasia; also in North America, North Africa, China (Hong Kong) and New Zealand.

N.S.W.: Limestone Valley Ck, 9 km NE of Canowindra, *H.Streimann* 9249 & *B.Barnsley* (CANB). A.C.T.: Paddys R., 17 km SW of Canberra, *H.Streimann* 9758 (CANB). Vic.: Winslow, *W.H.Ewers* 1665 (part) (MEL). Tas.: near Vale R., Vale of Belvoir, 5 km NE of Mayday Mount, 21 May 1993, *P.M.McCarthy* & *G.Kantvilas* (MEL); above Black Gully Ck, 1 km NE of Hamilton, *G.Kantvilas* 248/99 (HO).

