

Verrucaria puncticulata (P.M.McCarthy) P.M.McCarthy

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Verrucaria hydrela var. *puncticulata* P.M.McCarthy, *Muelleria* 7: 322 (1991). T: Whites Ck, 1 km upstream of its confluence with Tyers R., Tyers area, Vic., 19 Apr. 1989, *P.M.McCarthy* 5; holo: MEL; iso: HO.

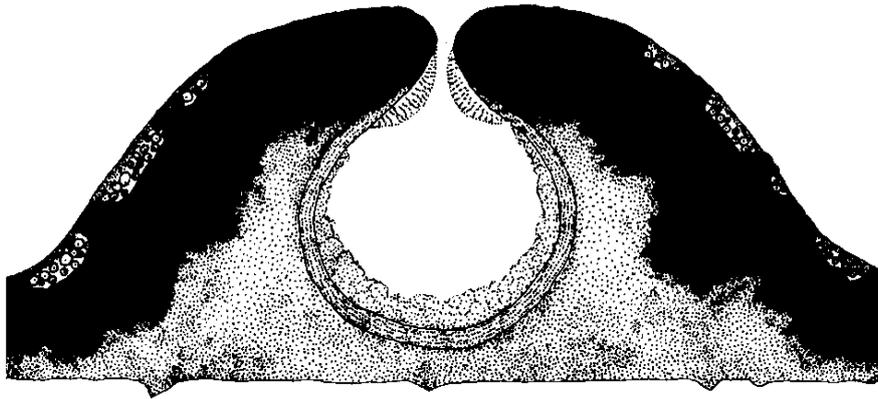
Illustrations: P.M.McCarthy, *Muelleria* 7: 324, fig. 3; 325, fig. 4 (1991), as *V. hydrela* var. *puncticulata*.

Thallus epilithic, rimose to sparingly areolate, \pm matt, smooth, green-black to grey-black, 0.03–0.15 mm thick, dotted with abundant black discrete to coalescent punctae, corticate. Algae ellipsoidal to globose, $4\text{--}9 \times 4\text{--}6 \mu\text{m}$. Prothallus not apparent; basal layer thick, black. Perithecia semi-immersed, 0.3–0.8 mm diam., black; apex rounded; ostiole in a 0.5–0.15 mm wide depression. Involucrellum contiguous with or arching away from the exciple, merging with the basal layer, 50–100 μm thick. Exciple 10–18 μm thick, pale to dark brown. Centrum 0.18–0.3 mm wide. Periphyses 17–22 \times 1–2 μm . Asci 50–65 \times 20–30 μm . Ascospores ellipsoidal, rarely ovate or subglobose, 13–21 \times 7–12 μm .

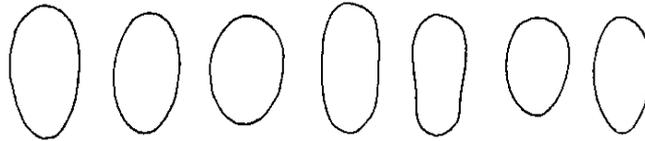
An endemic species on deeply shaded aquatic siltstone in southern Vic. and on submerged limestone in south-western Tas.

Tas.: Junee Cave, *G.Kantvilas* 74/00 (HO).

Verrucaria puncticulata is characterised by the dark, black-dotted thallus, large perithecia, ascospores of moderate size and the aquatic habitat.



0.2 mm



20 μm



