

Verrucaria subtholocarpa P.M.McCarthy & Kantvilas

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T: Adams R., Tas., 42°43'S, 146°18'E, alt. 350 m, 12 Jan. 2000, *G.Kantvilas* 2/00; holo: HO 65236.

Thallus epilithic, sparingly rimose to deeply and richly areolate, ±smooth, dull, medium grey-green to olive-green or with a yellowish or rusty tone (possibly due to iron leaching from the substratum), 30–80 (–100) µm thick, ecorticate; areolae angular, 0.2–0.6 mm wide, plane to slightly convex. Algae subglobose to globose, bright green, 6–11 × 6–9 µm. Prothallus not apparent; basal layer absent. Perithecia very numerous, semi-immersed to almost superficial, strongly convex to hemispherical, (0.24–) 0.35 (–0.42) mm diam., dull black; lower half often overgrown by a thin covering of thallus; apex rounded; ostiole inconspicuous or in a shallow depression. Involucrellum contiguous with the exciple (except near the base) and extending to exciple base level, 50–80 (–100) µm thick. Exciple 15–25 µm thick, dark greenish brown to green-black. Centrum 0.15–0.24 mm wide. Periphyses simple, 20–30 × 2–3 µm. Asci broadly cylindrical to broadly clavate, 65–85 × 20–30 µm. Ascospores broadly ellipsoidal, (17–) 21 (–24) × (9–) 12 (–15) µm.

This lichen is known only from the type locality in south-western Tas. It grows on siliceous rocks in a river bed subject to seasonal inundation.

Verrucaria subtholocarpa is rather similar in appearance to another Tasmanian endemic, *V. tholocarpa*. However, the latter has slightly larger perithecia, periphyses that are 30–60 µm long and much larger ascospores (26–47 µm long).

