

AMPHOROTHECIUM

P.M.McCarthy

[From *Flora of Australia* volume 57 (2009)]

Amphorothecium P.M.McCarthy, Kantvilas & Elix, *Lichenologist* 33: 292 (2001); from the Greek *amphoreus* (a jar or cinerary urn that is usually elliptical, ovoid or subglobose) and *theke* (a case, container or sheath), in reference to the shape of the perithecia.

Type: *A. occultum* P.M.McCarthy, Kantvilas & Elix

Thallus crustose. Algae resembling *Trentepohlia*. Ascomata perithecioid, lacking an involucrellum; ostiole apical. Exciple prosoplectenchymatous, predominantly hyaline to pale yellowish, externally pale orange. Hymenial gel non-amyloid. Paraphyses growing from the subhymenium and from the exciple almost to the perithecial apex, long-celled, sparingly anastomosing only at the base, otherwise \pm unbranched. Periphyses sparingly anastomosing only at the base, otherwise \pm unbranched. Asci (4–) 8-spored, uniformly thin-walled, without an apical apparatus; ascus wall non-amyloid. Ascospores large, transversely euseptate, retaining a thick sharply defined perispore, colourless; cells broader than long. Pycnidia not seen.

This monotypic, endemic genus is known only from south-eastern New South Wales.

The generic characters of *Amphorothecium* do not point to a close relationship with any family of the Pyrenulales. Moreover, while the affinities with Ostropales, and especially Myeloconidaceae, are more pronounced, the true familial position of the genus remains uncertain (McCarthy *et al.*, 2001; Lumbsch & Huhndorf, 2007).

P.M.McCarthy, G.Kantvilas & J.A.Elix, *Amphorothecium*, a new pyrenocarpous lichen genus from New South Wales, Australia, *Lichenologist* 33: 291–296 (2001); H.T.Lumbsch & S.M.Huhndorf (eds), Outline of Ascomycota – 2007, *Myconet* 13: 1–58 (2007).