

MYELORRHIZA

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Myelorrhiza Verdon & Elix, *Brunonia* 9: 195 (1987); from the Greek *myelos* (pith or medulla) and *rhiza* (root), in reference to the rhizines of this genus which, in the absence of a lower cortex, are derived directly from medullary hyphae.

Type: *M. antrea* Verdon & Elix

Thallus foliose, intricately lobate, corticate above, ecorticate below, pale grey to green above, lacking soredia and isidia. Lobes narrow, ±imbricate; sinuses deep; ultimate lobes short and broad; margins crenulate to lobulate; apices recurved, strongly so when fertile. Upper surface corticate, of gelatinised interwoven hyphae. Medulla of loosely interwoven very thick-walled hyphae. Lower surface whitish brown; rhizines simple, fasciculate, brown or ±pale; hyphal mat sometimes present. Phycobiont *Trebouxia*-like, ±covered with brown granules. Ascomata apothecial, lecideine, laminal, very shortly podetiate; disc ±strongly convex, ±proliferating, brown, blackening; exciple ±darker than disc. Ascospores simple, ovoid to narrowly ovoid; false septum present unless viewed in KOH. Conidiomata pycnidial, immersed; apices emergent, papilliform. Conidia rod-like.

A genus of two species endemic in Australia. It has some affinity to *Gymnoderma* Nyl., but can be recognised by its rhizines, and by its apothecia which are developed on the upper surface. It also differs by its apothecial anatomy and ontogeny.

D. Verdon & J.A. Elix, *Myelorrhiza*, a new Australian lichen genus from north Queensland, *Brunonia* 9: 193–214 (1987).

Thallus on rock; spots conspicuous; fasciculate rhizines dense

1. *M. antrea*

Thallus on bark; spots inconspicuous or absent; fasciculate rhizines sparse

2. *M. jenjiana*