

PERTUSARIA

Pertusaria DC., in J.B.A.P. de M. de Lamarck & A.P. de Candolle, *Fl. Franç.*, 3rd edn, 2: 319 (1805), *nom. cons.*; from the Latin *pertusus* (perforated), in reference to the ostioles of the ascomatal verrucae.

Type: *P. communis* DC., *nom. illeg.* (*Lichen verrucosus* Huds.) [= *P. pertusa* (L.) Tuck.]

Thallus crustose, white, yellow, grey, green or of intermediate shades; surface smooth, continuous or cracked, with or without soredia or isidia. Apothecia innate within convex, hemispherical or subglobose verrucae that are solitary or confluent, or apothecia disciform; disc small or broad and lecanorine. Asci clavate or cylindrical, 1–8-spored. Ascospores oval, ellipsoidal, fusiform or, rarely, globose, unicellular, hyaline, c. 20–250 µm long, with a single or double wall; inner ascospore wall smooth or rough. Pycnidia (rare in Australian species) black, immersed. Conidia narrowly fusiform to bacilliform, straight or slightly curved.

Chemistry. The most common lichen substances are depsides, depsidones, depsones, benyl-esters, xanthones, fatty acids and terpenoids.

This genus of c. 500 species is widely distributed in both hemispheres, from subpolar to tropical latitudes. In Australia, most taxa grow on bark and rock in areas with more than c. 500 mm annual rainfall.

Australia and its island territories in the south-western Pacific Ocean and Southern Ocean support 154 species of *Pertusaria* and 11 additional varieties; 80 species and nine additional varieties are thought to be endemic.