

Pertusaria balekensis A.W.Archer & Elix, *Mycotaxon* 67: 158 (1998)

T: Balek Wildlife Sanctuary, c. 15 km S of Madang, Madang Province, Papua New Guinea, alt. c. 20 m, 3 Sept. 1995, A.Aptroot 36802; holo: CANB; iso: herb. Aptroot.

Illustration: A.W.Archer & J.A.Elix, *op. cit.* 159, fig. 5.

Thallus yellowish fawn, thin, smooth and glossy, slightly cracked, sorediate, lacking isidia. Soralia conspicuous, numerous, scattered, concolorous with the thallus, 0.3–0.6 mm wide, occasionally slightly substipitate and up to 0.6 mm tall. Apothecia not seen.

Chemistry: containing 4,5-dichlorolichexanthone (minor), stictic acid (major), constictic acid (minor), with traces of substictic, peristictic and cryptostictic acids.

A very rare species on bark in south-eastern Qld; corticolous and saxicolous. More common in Papua New Guinea where it is corticolous and saxicolous.

Qld: Burtons Well Walking Track to Mt Kiangarow, Bunya Mountains Natl Park, J.A. Elix 37653 (CANB).

The species is characterised by the sterile sorediate thallus and the presence of 4,5-dichlorolichexanthone and stictic acid. It is the sorediate counterpart of the chemically similar isidiate *P. montpittensis* (q.v.).