

***Pertusaria commutata* Müll.Arg., *Flora* 67: 269 (1884)**

T: Caracas, Venezuela, *Dr Ernst s.n.*; lecto: G, *fide* A.W.Archer, *Mycotaxon* 41: 253 (1991); isolecto: US.

Illustration: A.W.Archer, *Biblioth. Lichenol.* 69: 183, fig. 70 (1997).

Thallus off-white to pale grey, folded and cracked, smooth and dull. Soredia and isidia absent. Apothecia numerous and crowded, disciform, adnate, 0.4–0.8 mm diam.; disc coarsely white-pruinose. Ascospores 1 per ascus, ellipsoidal, smooth, single-walled, 100–135 (–150) × 35–50 µm.

*Chemistry*: Thallus K<sup>+</sup> yellow, KC<sup>–</sup>, C<sup>–</sup>, Pd<sup>+</sup> yellow; containing haemathamnolic acid (major), lichexanthone (variable), thamnolic acid (trace) and baeomycesic acid (trace).

A tropical to subtropical, corticolous species that is known from eastern Qld and N.S.W.; also in Brazil, Venezuela, south-eastern U.S.A. and China.

Qld: Chester R., E of McIlwraith Ra., *G.Butler* 429 (CANB); Mt Farrenden, 26 km SSW of Charters Towers, *J.A.Elix* 20588 (CANB); Three-Mile Ck, 5 km N of Townsville, *J.A.Elix* 20042 (CANB). N.S.W.: Toonumbar S.F., *A.W.Archer* P454 (NSW); Evans R., *A.W.Archer* P389 (NSW).

The species is characterised by asci with a single ascospore and the presence of haemathamnolic acid in the thallus. It resembles *P. velata*, but it is distinguished from that species by its chemistry.

Reports of *P. commutata* from Tas. are probably based on misidentifications of *P. novaezelandiae*, a common species in Tasmanian rainforest.