

***Pertusaria dactylina* (Ach.) Nyl., *Acta Soc. Sci. Fenn.* 7: 447 (1863)**

Lichen dactylinus Ach., *Lich. Suec. Prodr.* 89 (1798). T: Spenlaf Region, Sweden, *E.Acharius s.n.*; holo: H-ACH *n.v.*

Illustrations: W.Martin & J.Child, *New Zealand Lichens* 109, pl. 21 (1972); R.Moberg & I.Holmasen, *Lavar* 209 (1982).

Thallus off-white to pale fawn, thin, growing on dead moss and peat, smooth, continuous, engulfing the substratum, lacking soredia, densely isidiate. Isidia usually simple, occasionally branched, 1.0–1.5 mm tall, 0.10–0.15 mm wide. Apothecia disciform, terminal in the tips of the isidia. Ascospores 1 per ascus, ellipsoidal, thin-walled, c. 200 µm long and 80 µm wide [apothecia and ascospores not seen in Australian material].

Chemistry: K– or + weak brown, KC–, C–, Pd+ red; containing fumarprotocetraric acid (major) and protocetraric acid (trace).

This subalpine to alpine bipolar species is Circumarctic in the Northern Hemisphere and grows over dead moss and other plant debris. Also in Macquarie Island and New Zealand.

Macquarie Island: Handspike Pt, on peat-covered rocks, *D.McVean 6975* (COLO).

Pertusaria dactylina is characterised by the isidiate thallus and the presence of fumarprotocetraric acid. It resembles *P. gymnospora* (*q.v.*), but that species contains protocetraric acid.