

Pertusaria malabara A.W.Archer & Elix, *Telopea* 6: 19 (1994)

T: Neds Beach road at Malabar Hill Track, Lord Howe Island, 32°31'16"S, 159°03'50"E, alt. 10 m, on crown of *Cryptocarya* in disturbed lowland forest, 22 June 1992, *J.A.Elix* 32875; holo: CANB.

Illustration: A.W.Archer & J.A.Elix, *op. cit.* 16, fig. 4.

Thallus pale olive-green, somewhat cracked, subtuberculate and dull, lacking isidia and soredia. Apothecia verruciform, conspicuous, numerous, flattened-hemispherical, becoming constricted at the base, concolorous with the thallus, 0.5–1.0 mm diam. Ostioles conspicuous, pale yellow, translucent, becoming concave, 0.2–0.3 mm diam., 1–4 per verruca. Ascospores 2 per ascus, ellipsoidal, smooth, 90–100 × 30–37 µm.

Chemistry: Thallus K–, KC+ weak orange, C+ weak orange, Pd–; containing thiophanic acid (major), 6-*O*-methylarthothelin (major), thiophanic acid (minor), 2,4-dichloronorlichexanthone (trace), 4,5-dichloronorlichexanthone (trace), stictic acid (minor) and constictic acid (trace).

A endemic corticolous species known only from Lord Howe Island.

The species is characterised by its bisporous asci and the presence of chlorinated norlichexanthenes and stictic acid. The occurrence of stictic acid with thiophanic acid appears to be unique. *Pertusaria malabara* resembles *P. saltuensis*, but the latter lacks 6-*O*-methylarthothelin and stictic acid.