

Pertusaria minispora A.W.Archer & Elix, *Australas. Lichenol.* 65: 32 (2009)

T: Bemm River Scenic Reserve, 45 km E of Orbost, Vic., 37°37'30"S, 148°53'12"E, alt. 65 m, on bark of *Pomaderris*, 15 Apr. 2008, *J.A.Elix 38692*; holo: MEL.

Illustration: A.W.Archer & J.A.Elix, *op. cit.* 38, fig. 5.

Thallus off-white to pale olive-green, thin, smooth and dull, lacking isidia and soredia. Apothecia verruciform, scattered, flattened-hemispherical, 0.5–1.0 mm diam. Ostioles pale, inconspicuous, 1 or 2 per verruca. Ascospores 8 per ascus, hyaline, ellipsoidal, smooth, $36\text{--}46 \times 14\text{--}17 \mu\text{m}$.

Chemistry: containing 4,5-dichlorolichexanthone (major) and perlatolic acid (major).

This very rare corticolous species is known only from the type locality in eastern coastal Vic.

Pertusaria minispora is characterised by the small ascospores and the presence of perlatolic acid and 4,5-dichlorolichexanthone. It resembles the common *P. pertractata* (*q.v.*) in appearance and ascospore morphology, but is distinguished by the presence of perlatolic rather than 2'-*O*-methylperlatolic acid. Perlatolic acid derivatives are common in *Pertusaria*, but the parent compound is rarely found as a major substance (although it can occur in minor or trace amounts).