

Pertusaria thula A.W.Archer, *Mycotaxon* 41: 246 (1991)

T: The Tip, Cape York Penin., Qld, 26 Sept. 1976, *U.Allen s.n.*; holo: HO 50934.

Illustration: A.W.Archer, *Biblioth. Lichenol.* 69: 154, fig. 57 (1997).

Thallus dull yellow, areolate and cracked, thin. Soredia and isidia absent. Apothecia conspicuous, verruciform, flattened-hemispherical, concolorous with the thallus, constricted at the base, sometimes confluent, 0.8–2.0 mm diam. Ostioles conspicuous, subpapilliform, concolorous with the verrucae, 1–4 per verruca. Ascospores 8 per ascus, irregularly biseriate, broadly ellipsoidal, smooth, 60–85 × 37–50 µm.

Chemistry: Thallus K–, KC+ yellow-orange, C+ yellow-orange, Pd–; containing thiophanic acid (major), asemone [4,5,7-trichloronorlichexanthone] (minor), arthothelin (minor) and 6-*O*-methylasemone (trace).

A endemic, saxicolous species in Cape York Peninsula, north-eastern Qld.

Qld: Cape York, *S.Jacobs* 5463, 5465 (NSW).

The species is characterised by 8-spored asci and the presence of thiophanic acid. It is distinguished from the somewhat similar *P. hypoxantha* by the absence of thiophanic acid and the arrangement of ascospores in the ascus. *Pertusaria thula* is chemically similar to *P. melanospora*, but that species lacks thiophanic acid and has a more southerly distribution.