

**Verrucaria maura** Wahlenb.

in E.Acharius, *Methodus* 19 (1803)

T: Europe; holo: H-ACH *n.v.*

Illustrations: E.G.Kopachevskaya, M.F.Makarevicz & A.N.Oxner, *Opredelitel' Lishainikov SSSR. vol. 4. Verrucariaceae-Pilocarpaceae* 29, fig. 17 (1977); G.Clauzade & C.Roux, *Bull. Soc. Bot. Centre-Ouest*, n.s., numéro spécial 7: 812, fig. 401 (1985); P.M.McCarthy, *Muelleria* 7: 331, fig. 8B-D (1991).

Thallus epilithic, richly and deeply rimose to areolate, dark grey-green to greenish black, frequently with black, 10–40  $\mu\text{m}$  wide punctulatae, (0.05–) 0.1–0.3 (–0.7) mm thick; areolae angular, plane to slightly convex, 0.1–0.5 (–0.8) mm wide. Prothallus black or not apparent; basal layer dark brown to black. Algae ellipsoidal to globose, c. 3–8  $\times$  3–6  $\mu\text{m}$ . Perithecia semi-immersed to almost superficial, often partly or largely overgrown by a 30–50  $\mu\text{m}$  thick thalline layer, 0.25–0.5 mm diam., black; apex plane to rounded; ostiole inconspicuous to slightly depressed. Involucrellum dimidiate or extending to exciple base level and merging with the basal layer, contiguous with or arching away from the exciple, 40–70 (–120)  $\mu\text{m}$  thick. Exciple 10–20  $\mu\text{m}$  thick, hyaline to brown-black. Centrum 0.2–0.3 mm wide. Periphyses 25–35  $\times$  1–2  $\mu\text{m}$ . Asci 38–46  $\times$  17–20  $\mu\text{m}$ . Ascospores usually narrowly ellipsoidal, 12–20 (–22)  $\times$  6–8 (–9)  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Occurs on seashore rocks in Vic. and Tas.; reports from W.A. and N.S.W. (R.B.Filson, *Checklist Austral. Lichens & Allied Fungi* 147, 1996) could not be confirmed. Ubiquitous on most temperate to boreal coasts of Eurasia, North America, Japan and Antarctica; also in Macquarie I. and New Zealand.

Vic.: Red Bluff, Brighton, 16 Mar. 1885, *F.R.M.Wilson* (MEL, NSW); Sandringham, 26 May 1900, *F.R.M.Wilson* (MEL). Tas.: Kingfisher Beach, 12 Mar. 1966, *G.C. & M.H.Bratt* (HO); Sleepy Bay, Freycinet Penin., *G.Kantvilas* 138/84 & *P.James* (HO).

This lichen is especially variable in its thalline and perithecial morphology, the thickness of the basal thallus layer and in the thickness and extent of the involucrellum.

