**Verrucaria praetermissa** (Trevis.) Anzi


Thallus epilithic, rimose to areolate, pale greyish white to pale grey-green, 60–200 µm thick; areolae 0.3–0.8 (–1.4) mm wide, angular, irregular, plane to slightly convex, corticate. Algae ellipsoidal, 5–9 × 4–7 µm. Prothallus discontinuous and dark brown or not apparent; basal layer brown-black, 30–100 (–140) µm thick. Perithecia almost completely immersed, 0.18–0.3 mm diam., black; apex plane to convex; ostiole inconspicuous or in a broad shallow depression. Involucrellum contiguous with the exciple, extending down to merge with the basal layer, 50–70 µm thick. Exciple c. 15–20 µm thick, hyaline to pale greenish brown. Centrum 0.15–0.2 mm wide. Periphyses 30–50 × 1.5–2.5 µm. Asci 55–70 × 17–25 µm. Ascospores narrowly ellipsoidal to subcylindrical, 15–24 × 6.5–9.5 µm.

Known from eastern Qld and eastern N.S.W.; grows on deeply shaded, aquatic and semi-aquatic rocks. Also in central, western and northern Europe, North America, China (Hong Kong), New Guinea, New Zealand and the South Pacific Ocean (including Lord Howe Island).

Qld: tributary of Beatrice R., below Souita Falls, 12 km SSE of Millaa Millaa, Atherton Tableland, *P.M.McCarthy 841* (MEL); Little Crystal Ck, Mount Spec Natl Park, 36 km S of Ingham, *P.M.McCarthy 807* (MEL); between Paradise Falls and Little Falls, Bunya Mountains Natl Park, *P.M.McCarthy 764* (MEL); Canungra Ck, below Boxlog Falls, Green Mtns, Lamington Natl Park, *P.M.McCarthy 735* (MEL).

N.S.W.: tributary of Karuah R., 1.5 km SE of Red Cedar Ck, Chichester State Forest, *P.M.McCarthy 325, 530* (MEL).

*Verrucaria praetermissa* is one of only a few aquatic *Verrucaria* species with very pale, areolate thalli. It is further characterised by a thick black basal layer and small immersed perithecia.