ALECTORIA

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Alectoria Ach., in Luyken, Tent. Hist. Lich. Gen. 95 (1809); from the Greek alector (chicken); from the similarity of the lichen to the tuft of feathers on the tail of a rooster.

Type: A. sarmentosa (Ach.) Ach.

Thallus erect or decumbent, much-branched, terete to subterete, becoming compressed, angular and ±faveolate near base and at axils, mostly yellowish to blackened; isidia and soredia rarely present; lateral spinules absent; pseudocyphellae abundant, ±raised, sometimes becoming sorediate; cortex of pericilinal, conglutinated hyphae. Ascomata apothecial, lateral; disc dark brown to black; exciple concolorous with thallus, eciliate. Asci 2–4 spored, clavate. Ascospores ellipsoidal, non-septate, brown when mature, with a distinct hyaline episporium. Conidiomata pycnidial, rare, black. Conidia straight, 2–8 × c. 0.8 μm.

A genus of 8 species, widely distributed in cold to cool temperate regions, particularly in North America. One species in Australia.