

ACANTHOTHECIS

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Acanthothecis Clem., *Gen. Fungi* 59 (1909); from the Latin *acanthus* (a thorn) and the Greek *theke* (a container or sheath); allusion uncertain.

Type: *A. pachygraphoides* (Vain.) Clem.

Thallus off-white to pale fawn, smooth, dull to slightly glossy. Apothecia lirelliform to irregularly disciform, inconspicuous, sessile, linear; lips slightly open. Proper exciple not carbonised, inconspicuous or absent. Hymenium not inspersed, I-. Ascospores hyaline, transversely septate with lenticular locules, or muriform, I- or I+ pale blue.

Chemistry: Depsides present, or lacking lichen compounds.

A genus of c. 30 tropical and subtropical species, predominantly corticolous (rarely saxicolous); six species are known from Australia.

K.Kalb & B.Staiger, *Acanthothecis* and other graphidioid lichens with warty periphysoids and paraphysis tips, *Mycotaxon* 73: 69–134 (1999); U.Makhija & B.Adawadkar, Transseptate species of *Acanthothecis* and *Fissurina* from India, *Lichenologist* 39: 165–185 (2007).

1	Ascospores transversely septate.....	2
1:	Ascospores muriform.....	4
2	Thallus saxicolous; ascospores 19–22 µm long, 4-locular; norstictic acid present (1)....	4. A. silicicola
2:	Thallus corticolous.....	3
3	Ascospores 40–56 µm long, 16–18-locular; protocetraric acid present (2:).....	2. A. borealis
3:	Ascospores 80–100 µm long, 28–35-locular; lichen compounds absent.....	1. A. aquilonia
4	Stictic acid present; ascospores 14–24 µm long (1:).....	3. A. gyridia
4:	Norstictic acid present; ascospores often longer.....	5
5	Ascospores 20–30 µm long (4:).....	5. A. subaggregans
5:	Ascospores 57–70 µm long.....	6. A. tetraphora