

LAURERA

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Laurera Rchb., *Deutsch. Bot. Herb.-Buch* 15 (1841); named in honour of the German botanist and lichenologist Johann Friedrich Laurer (1798–1873).

Type: *L. megasperma* (Mont.) Riddle

Thallus corticate, green to grey. Ascomata simple, black, with pseudostromatic tissues, globose, immersed in the substratum, mostly covered by the thallus. Hamathecium colourless or yellowish, interspersed with oil droplets or not. Ascospores 1–8 per ascus, IKI–, colourless or becoming brown on the surface, fusiform with rounded ends, densely irregularly muriform, with scarcely rounded lumina, constricted or not at the median septum, surrounded by a gelatinous sheath. Conidiomata unknown.

Chemistry: Lichexanthone, the related 1,8-dihydroxy-3,6-dimethoxyxanthone, or no substances detected (in the Australian species).

A genus of c. 25 species, mostly tropical epiphytes. One species is known from Australia.

M.-A.Letrouit-Galinou, Revision monographique du genre *Laurera* (Lichenes, Trypéthéliacées), *Rev. Bryol. Lichénol.* 26: 207–264 (1957); A.Aptroot, P.Diederich, E.Sérusiaux & H.J.M.Sipman, Lichens and lichenicolous fungi of Papua New Guinea, *Biblioth. Lichenol.* 64: 1–220 (1997).