

MELANOTOPELIA

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Melanotopelia Lumbsch & Mangold, in A.Mangold, M.P.Martin, K.Kalb, R.Lücking & H.T.Lumbsch, *Lichenologist* 40: 43 (2008); from the Greek *melanos* (black), in reference to the dark pigmentation of the proper exciple, and its superficial resemblance to the genus *Topelia* P.M.Jørg. & Vězda (Stictidaceae).

Type: *M. toensbergii* (Vězda & Kantvilas) Lumbsch & Mangold

Thallus immersed to superficial, off-white, greyish to olive. True cortex present. Photobiont trentepohlioid. Prothallus absent or thin to indistinct and brownish. Ascomata \pm rounded, initially perithecioid, becoming apothecioid. Proper exciple fused, thick, hyaline to pale yellowish internally, carbonised marginally, often amyloid at the base and subhymenium. Hymenium non-amyloid, not inspersed, moderately conglutinated; paraphyses \pm straight, parallel, unbranched, with slightly thickened tips; lateral paraphyses not clearly separated from the proper exciple; columellar structures absent. Epihymenium hyaline, occasionally brownish, egranulose. Asci 1–8-spored, non-amyloid, clavate. Ascospores 1–2-seriate, muriform, hyaline to yellowish or brown, non-amyloid or slightly amyloid; ascospore wall \pm thick to thin, halonate or not.

Chemistry: Containing β -orcinol depsidones.

This genus was described for two species, formerly placed in *Topeliopsis*, but which differ from that genus by having a dark-pigmented to carbonised marginal proper exciple and non-amyloid ascospores (a few species of *Topeliopsis s. lat.* have non-amyloid ascospores). The new genus was confirmed by molecular data (Mangold *et al.*, 2008). A similar exciple structure, *viz.* dark to carbonised marginally and hyaline with lateral paraphyses internally, can be found in *Diploschistes* (readily distinguished by a different photobiont and habitat preferences) and in the newly described *Schizotrema*. However, the latter genus is characterised by having regenerating ascomata with a distinctly layered margin.

G.Kantvilas & A.Vězda, Studies on the lichen family Thelotremaaceae in Tasmania. The genus *Chroodiscus* and its relatives, *Lichenologist* 32: 325–357 (2000); A.Mangold, M.P.Martin, K.Kalb, R.Lücking & H.T.Lumbsch, Molecular data show that *Topeliopsis* (*Ascomycota, Thelotremaaceae*) is polyphyletic, *Lichenologist* 40: 39–46 (2008).