GROUP L

[Thallus corticolous, fertile; apothecia disciform; asci 8-spored]

1  Thallus K+ yellow, KC–, Pd+ yellow; thamnolic acid present ........................................P. thamnolica
1: Thallus K–, KC+ violet, Pd–; picrolichenic acid present ..................................................P. truncata

Pertusaria thamnolica A.W.Archer, Mycotaxon 44: 16 (1992)
T: E side of Mooney Mooney Ck, c. 8 km WSW of Gosford, N.S.W., 33°26'E, 151°15'S, 24 May 1991, A.W.Archer P178; holo: NSW; iso: CANB.
Thallus off-white to pale grey, areolate and cracked, smooth and dull. Soredia and isidia absent.
Apothecia conspicuous, scattered, disciform; disc pale orange, white-pruinose, 0.5–1.5 mm diam., with thick inrolled margins. Ascospores 8 per ascus, uniseriate, ellipsoidal, smooth, 22–32 × 12–17 µm; ascospore wall c. 1 µm thick.
Chemistry: Thallus K+ yellow, KC–, C–, Pd+ yellow; containing thamnolic acid (major).

An uncommon, corticolous species in eastern N.S.W.; also in New Zealand.
N.S.W.: Old Lindesay Hwy, 7 km NE of Woodenbong, A.W.Archer P401 (NSW); Gibraltar Range Natl Park, 60 km ENE of Glen Innes, A.W.Archer P440 (NSW); Buckenbowra R., 7.5 km W of Batemans Bay, J.A.Elix 22630 (CANB).

Pertusaria thamnolica is characterised by 8-spored asci and the presence of thamnolic acid. The latter feature distinguishes it from P. truncata.

T: [probably Wellington], New Zealand [fide G.Kantvilas, Lichenologist 22: 299, 1990], C.Knight 46; holo: M.
Illustration: G.Kantvilas, Lichenologist 22: 291, fig. 1C.
Thallus pale greyish white to dull grey, thick and cracked, smooth. Soredia and isidia absent.
Apothecia often numerous and conspicuous, disciform; disc pale orange-brown to grey, densely white-pruinose. Ascospores 8 per ascus, uniseriate, ellipsoidal, smooth, 19–27 × 12–15 µm.
Chemistry: Thallus K+ weak orange-brown, KC+ violet, C–, Pd–; containing picrolichenic acid (major), isohyperpicrolichenic acid (major), hyperpicrolichenic acid (minor) and subpicrolichenic acid (minor). The chemistry of P. truncata was reported in detail by Elix et al., Austral. J. Chem. 44: 1487 (1991); ibid. 47: 1345 (1994).

Corticolous, usually on Nothofagus, in rainforest in Vic. and Tas.; especially common in Tas. and also in New Zealand.
Vic.: Mt Donna Buang, 5 km NW of Warburton, H.Streimann 36245 (CANB); Mt Boobyalla, 6 km N of Warburton, R.Filson 7029 (MEL). Tas.: 35 km NNE of Savage R., H.Streimann 40141 (CANB); near Picton, G.C.Bratt 74/391 (HO); near Pencil Pine Ck, Cradle Mountain Natl Park, W.A.Weber (COLO L49471).
The species is characterised by asci with 8 small ascospores and the presence of picrolichenic acid in the thallus.