**Pertusaria cryptostoma** Müll.Arg., *Flora* 71: 206 (1888)

T: Lydenberg, Transvaal, South Africa, 1885, Dr Wilms 24; holo: G.


Thallus pale olive-green, cracked and areolate, smooth and dull. Soredia and isidia absent. Apothecia conspicuous, verruciform, flattened-hemispherical, concolorous with the thallus, scattered, sometimes confluent, becoming constricted at the base, 0.7–1.2 mm diam. Ostioles inconspicuous, pale, translucent, 1 or 2 per verruca, sometimes fusing to form a sunken translucent disc. Ascospores 8 per ascus, irregularly biseriate, ellipsoidal to subfusiform, smooth, 65–75 (–80) × 25–30 µm.

**Chemistry**: Thallus K–, KC–, C–, Pd–; containing 2-chlorolichexanthone (major), stictic acid (major) and constictic acid (minor).

An uncommon, corticolous species in eastern Qld and north-eastern N.S.W.; also in Lord Howe Is., southern Africa and Brazil.

Qld: Daintree Ferry, W.H.Ewers 8385 (CANB); Carnarvon Natl Park, 91 km NNW of Injune, J.A.Elix 34075 (CANB); Moreton, 4 km N of Richmond Gap, A.W.Archer P418 (NSW). N.S.W.: Antarctic Beech Lookout, Border Ranges Natl Park, A.W.Archer P428 (NSW); 3 km SW of Evans Head, Bundjalung Natl Park, A.W.Archer P529 (NSW).

The species is characterised by the asci with 8 biseriate ascospores and the presence of 2-chlorolichexanthone and stictic acid in the thallus. It is distinguished from the chemically similar *P. delicatula* Müll.Arg., from Brazil, by the smaller ascospores (55–65 µm long) of the latter. The chemically similar *P. torquatella* Müll.Arg., also described from Brazil, has black ostioles.

This was previously reported from Australia under the more recent synonym *P. limbata*. 