

Pertusaria dehiscens Müll.Arg., *Flora* 67: 349 (1884)

T: Apiaby, Brazil, July 1882, *J.I.Puiggari* 499 p.p.; lecto: G; *vide* Oshio, *in sched.*

Thallus pale to dark olive-green, dull, wrinkled and cracked. Soredia and isidia absent. Apothecia numerous, conspicuous, verruciform, concolorous with the thallus, flattened-hemispherical, 0.8–1.5 mm diam. Ostioles black, punctiform, 2–5 per verruca, in a hyaline zone that becomes rather conspicuous, deeply concave and almost disciform, to 0.8 mm diam. Ascospores 8 per ascus, biseriate, fusiform, smooth, 100–140 (–150) × 35–50 µm.

The corticolous species is characterised by the concave tops of the verrucae, asci with 8 biseriate ascospores and the presence of lichexanthone and stictic acid in the thallus. It is distinguished from other Australian *Pertusaria* species with 8 biseriate ascospores by the presence of lichexanthone.

Two varieties are recognised.

Thallus containing sekikaic acid..... **b. var. sekikaica**
Thallus not containing sekikaic acid..... **a. var. dehiscens**

a. Pertusaria dehiscens Müll.Arg. var. **dehiscens**

Illustration: A.W.Archer, *Biblioth. Lichenol.* 69: 61, fig. 14 (1997).

Chemistry: Thallus K–, KC–, C–, Pd–, UV+ yellow; containing lichexanthone (major), stictic acid (minor), constictic acid (minor), ±menegazziaic acid (trace) and ±cryptostictic acid (trace).

A widely distributed variety which occurs in eastern Qld and north-eastern N.S.W.; also in Norfolk Island, Brazil and India.

Qld: Clarke Ra., 46 km S of Proserpine, *J.A.Elix* 18682 (CANB); Mt Baldy, 4 km SW of Atherton, *J.A.Elix* 16246 (CANB). N.S.W.: Mt Naardi, 30 km N of Lismore, *A.W.Archer* P398 (NSW); Toonumbar S.F., 26 km NW of Kyogle, *A.W.Archer* P454 (NSW); Gibraltar Ra., 90 km E of Glen Innes, *H.Perich* (COLO L-15278).

b. Pertusaria dehiscens var. **sekikaica** A.W.Archer & Elix, *in* A.W.Archer, *Biblioth. Lichenol.* 69: 57 (1997)

T: Foxtail Rd, Toonumbar State Forest, c. 26 km NW of Kyogle, N.S.W., 28°28'S, 152°47'E, 10 Sept. 1992, *A.W.Archer* P377; holo: NSW.

Morphologically very similar to var. *dehiscens*.

Chemistry: Thallus K–, KC–, C–, Pd–, UV+ yellow; containing lichexanthone (major), sekikaic acid (minor) and constictic acid (trace).

This endemic variety is known only from the type locality in north-eastern N.S.W.