Pertusaria oblongata Müll.Arg., Flora 67: 401 (1884)
T: Apiahy, Brazil, 1883, J.I. Puiggari 1394, 1883; holo: G


Illustration: A.W. Archer & J.A. Elix, op. cit. 16, fig. 2.

Thallus off-white to dull yellowish green, areolate and cracked, smooth. Soredia and isidia absent. Apothecia numerous, conspicuous, verruciform, scattered, flattened-hemispherical, sometimes becoming constricted at the base and distorted, 0.8–1.5 (–2.0) mm diam. Ostioles inconspicuous, black or translucent, 1 (or 2) per verruca. Ascospores 8 per ascus, irregularly biseriate, ellipsoidal to subfusiform, (65–) 75–87 × 30–35 µm.

Chemistry: Thallus K−, KC+ yellow-orange, C+ yellow-orange, Pd−; containing arthothelin (major), 6-O-methylarthothelin (major), 2,5-dichloronorlichexanthone (minor), 2,7-dichloronorlichexanthone (minor) and 4,5-dichloronorlichexanthone (trace).

An uncommon, corticolous species in eastern N.S.W.; also in Lord Howe Island and Papua New Guinea.

N.S.W.: Sawtell, c. 6 km S of Coffs Harbour, A.W. Archer P888 (NSW); track to Resolute Beach, Ku-ring-gai Chase Ntl Park, A.W. Archer P803 (NSW).

The lichen is characterised by asci with 8 biseriate ascospores and the presence of chlorinated norlichexanthones in the thallus. It resembles *P. bartlettii* A.W. Archer & Elix, from New Zealand, but the two differ in their chemistry: *P. bartlettii* contains thiophanic acid in place of the 6-O-methylarthothelin of *P. howeana*. *Pertusaria howeana* is chemically identical to *P. idukkienesis* Awasthi & Srivastava from India, but the ascospores in the latter are 112–212 µm long.