Thysanothecium

N. Sammy

[From Flora of Australia volume 54 (1992)]

Thysanothecium Mont. & Berkeley, Hooker's J. Bot. Kew Gard. Misc. 5: 257–258 (1846); from the Greek thysanos (a fringe or tassel) and thecium (hymenium), in reference to the subterminal, ventrally placed, often pectinate apothecium.

Type: T. hookeri Mont. & Berkeley

Primary squamules areolate, scattered or closely imbricate; cortex ±continuous to fissured, a strengthening cylinder of cartilaginous, nerve-like strands below upper cortex. Pseudopodetia erect, terete near base, becoming flattened, expanded and leaf-like above. Phycobiont Trebouxia. Ascomata apothecial, terminal or subterminal on pseudopodetia, solitary to ±clustered; disc flat to convex, often developed on ventral surface of supporting pseudopodetium; epithecium granular, 7–10 µm thick, brown; hymenium 24–40 µm tall, hyaline; hypothecium 100–120 µm thick, pale yellowish; paraphyses ±densely conglutinate, filiform, simple, septate, 1.3–1.5 µm wide. Asci clavate, 15–20 × 6 µm. Ascospores 8 per ascus, simple, ellipsoidal, straight or curved, 7–10 × 2–3 µm, hyaline. Conidiomata pycnidial, marginal on primary squamules, cylindrical or bottle-shaped, with a gaping ostiole, black. Conidia not seen.

A genus of 2 species occurring predominantly in the cool southern regions of Australia, including Tas., and extending into Qld; also in N.Z., N.Caled., Indonesia and Japan.


Pseudopodetia with ±continuous cortex not exposing corticate granules; growing on soil, termite/ant mounds and rocks; containing usnic and barbatic acids as major extrametabolites

Pseudopodetia with grooved striate cortex, exposing corticate granules; growing on bark; containing usnic and divaricatic acids as major extrametabolites