**TRYPETHELIUM**

André Aptroot

*Trypethelium* Spreng., *Anleit. Kenntn. Gew.* 3: 350 (1804); from the Greek *trype* (a hole) and *thele* (a nipple), in reference to the many locules and the shape of the ascomata.

Type: *T. eluteriae* Spreng.

Thallus green to grey or yellowish, smooth to somewhat bullate, corticate. Ascomata simple, black, with or without pseudostromatic tissues, globose, immersed in pseudostromata or crumpet, often at least the sides covered by the thallus. Hamathecium colourless, occasionally impregnated with oil droplets. Ascospores 8 per ascus, IKI–, irregularly biserial, colourless, fusiform with subacute ends, symmetrically 3–19-septate (in non-Australian species to 33-septate), not constricted at the septa; immature ascospores with a gelatinous sheath; lumina diamond-shaped. Conidiomata rather rare.

Chemistry: Thallus and/or pseudostroma often containing lichexanthone (or 1,8-dihydroxy-3,6-dimethoxyxanthone) or anthraquinone.

A genus of c. 25 species, mostly tropical epiphytes; eight species are known from northern Australia.


1. Ascospores 5–19-septate
2. Thallus UV+ yellow, containing lichexanthone (1)
3. Pseudostromata with yellow to orange K+ purple and UV+ red pigment
4. Ascospores 9–19-septate
5. Thallus UV– or UV+ reddish, not containing lichexanthone
6. Ascospores 5–7-septate
7. Ascomata solitary, superficial
8. Ascomata aggregated, largely immersed in pseudostromata

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1. *T. cinereorosellum*
2. *T. eluteriae*
3. *T. elmeri*
4. *T. epileucodes*
5. *T. ochroleucum*
6. *T. aeneum*
7. *T. tropicum*
8. *T. nitidiusculum*