

PYCNOTHELIA

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Pycnothelia Dufour, *Ann. Gén. Sci. Phys.* 8: 45 (1821); from the Greek *pycno* (compact) and *thele* (nipple), in reference to the crowded, nipple-like podetia of the type species.

Type: *P. papillaria* Dufour

Thallus dimorphic, *Cladonia*-like; primary thallus mostly persistent, crustose to subsquamulose; secondary thallus consisting of simple or sparingly branched, terete, hollow, escyphiferous podetia bearing convex apothecia. Phycobiont protococcoid. Ascospores ellipsoidal, simple to 1(–2–4) septate, hyaline. Conidiomata pycnidial, apical or laminal, rather variable in shape. Conidia falcate.

A genus of 2 species, on soil or peat, mainly in cool, moist climates, 1 species in Tas.

J.Poelt, *Pycnothelia*, *Bestimmungsschlüssel Europäischer Flechten* 546 (1974); J.R.Laundon, Studies in the nomenclature of British Lichens II, *Lichenologist* 18: 169–177 (1986); D.J.Galloway & P.W.James, *Metus*, a new austral lichen genus and notes on an Australasian species of *Pycnothelia*, *Notes Roy. Bot. Gard. Edinburgh* 44: 561–579 (1987).