Verrucaria prominula Nyl.

Bull. Soc. Bot. France 8: 758 (1861)

T: Pornic, France, 1861; holo: H-NYL *n.v.*

Illustration: P.M.McCarthy & G.Kantvilas, *Australas. Lichenol.* 46: 33, fig. 2 (2000).

Thallus subepilithic to epilithic, diffuse to determinate (mainly around perithecia), continuous to rimose, pale pinkish grey, smooth to uneven, matt, 40–80 µm thick, heavily impregnated with minute rock fragments and crystals, ecorticate. Algae 6–12 µm diam. Prothallus and basal layer not apparent. Perithecia semi-immersed to almost superficial, solitary, paired or in groups of 3, hemispherical, subglobose or subconical, (0.4–) 0.55 (–0.72) mm diam., black; apex rounded to deeply excavate. Involucrellum extending to the base of the exciple or completely enclosing it, smooth or slightly to grossly uneven, not overgrown by the thallus, brown-black to black in thin section, 50–100 µm thick near the apex, 100–200 µm thick at the base. Exciple 20–30 µm thick, brown-black. Centrum 0.22–0.35 mm wide. Periphyses 30–60 × c. 2 µm. Asci c. 45–65 × 18–25 µm. Ascospores usually broadly ellipsoidal, 11–20 × 7–10.5 µm.

Known from one locality in southern Tas. where it grows on soft friable shale above a rocky seashore. Also in France, Germany, Scandinavia, the British Isles, North America and New Zealand.

Tas.: Alum Cliffs, estuary of Derwent R., Hobart, *P.M.McCarthy 1340 & G.Kantvilas* (CANB, HO).

Verrucaria prominula has a pale thallus and rather large prominent perithecia that are frequently clustered and have an excavate apex. It is further characterised by its occurrence on soft maritime rocks in comparatively dry shaded situations.