**Verrucaria subdiscreta** P.M.McCarthy

*Muelleria* 7: 327 (1991)

T: Big Duck Bay, Hunters Is., [Bass Strait], Tas., 5 Nov. 1973, *T.B.Muir* 5245; holo: MEL.

Illustration: P.M.McCarthy, *op. cit.* 328, fig. 6.

Thallus epilithic, diffuse to determinate and usually areolate, matt, smooth, olive-green to green-black, (20–) 40–60 µm thick, occasionally dotted with black puncticulae, ecorticate; areolae angular, usually plane, 0.1–0.3 mm wide; substratum often visible between areolae. Algae broadly ellipsoidal to globose, 4–9 (–11) × 4–6 µm diam., often in vertical rows. Prothallus not apparent; basal layer absent. Perithecia semi-immersed to almost superficial, hemispherical to subglobose, 0.12–0.22 mm diam., dull to glossy black; apex usually rounded; ostiole inconspicuous or slightly depressed. Involucrellum contiguous with the exciple or arching away from it, brown-black in section, 30–60 µm thick. Exciple 10–15 µm thick, pale to dark brown. Centrum 0.08–0.15 mm wide. Periphyses 10–18 × 1.5–2.5 µm. Asci 25–35 × 10–14 µm. Ascospores ellipsoidal to elongate-ellipsoidal, 9–15 × 4–6.5 µm. Pycnidia semi-immersed, 40–60 (–80) µm diam. Conidia bacilliform, 2–3 × 0.5 µm.

Grows on supralittoral coastal limestone, calcareous sandstone, shale, granite, gneiss and quartzite; known from W.A., S.A., N.S.W., Vic. and Tas. Also in New Zealand and Macquarie Island.

W.A.: Point Peron, 12 July 1970, *N.Sammy* (COLO, MEL). S.A.: Emu Bay, Kangaroo Is., 26 Jan. 1957, *H.B.S.Womersley* (AD). N.S.W.: Wagonga Inlet, Bodalla State Forest, 7 km E of Narooma, *P.M.McCarthy 475A* (MEL). Vic.: Hopkins Mouth, near Warrnambool, 22 Aug. 1986, *W.H.Ewers* (MEL). Tas.: Cape Sorell, May 1971, *J.E.S.Townrow* (HO).

*Verrucaria subdiscreta* is characterised by the thin puncticulate and areolate thallus, the small prominent perithecia, the small ascospores and the presence of pycnidia. The cosmopolitan and rather variable *V. maura* is somewhat similar in appearance, and it also inhabits the upper littoral and lower supralittoral levels of rocky seashores. However, the latter has distinctly larger although usually less prominent perithecia and larger ascospores.