

## HEMITHECIUM

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*Hemithecium* Trevis., *Spighe e Paglie* 1: 12 (1853); from the Greek *hemi-* (half) and *theke* (a container or case), possibly in reference to the sessile lirellae.

Lecto: *H. balbisii* (Fée) Trevis.

Thallus pale fawn to pale greenish brown, smooth, lacking soredia and isidia, corticolous. Ascomata lirelliform, sessile and conspicuous, or immersed and inconspicuous, usually simple, rarely branched. Proper exciple non-carbonised, yellow-brown, orange-brown or pale brown, complete, sometimes with the lips darkening, occasionally absent. Hymenium not interspersed, usually I–, rarely I+ blue. Asci 1–8-spored. Ascospores hyaline, rarely pale brown, transversely septate with lenticular locules, or muriform, I+ blue or blue-violet.

Chemistry: Stictic acid, or lichen compounds absent.

*Hemithecium* subg. *Leucogramma* Staiger, characterised by having an interspersed hymenium, brown ascospores and the presence of stictic acid, has been raised to the level of genus, as *Pallidogramme* (see below).

*Hemithecium* is a tropical and subtropical genus of 22 species; six are known from Australia.

A.Mangold, H.T.Lumbsch & K.Kalb, *Hemithecium rimulosum* comb. nov. (Ostropales, Graphidaceae), a widespread species in eastern Australia, *Australas. Lichenol.* 62: 32–34 (2008).

1	Ascospores transversely septate .....	2
1:	Ascospores muriform .....	4
2	Ascomata sessile; stictic acid present; ascospores 80–95 µm long, 15–24-locular (1).....	1. <b>H. aphanes</b>
2:	Ascomata immersed; stictic acid absent; ascospores to 40 µm long, 6–12-locular .....	3
3	Ascomata white; ascospores 28–32 µm long, 6–10-locular (2:.).....	4. <b>H. laubertianum</b>
3:	Ascomata pale orange-brown; ascospores 30–40 µm long, 9–12-locular .....	3. <b>H. implicatum</b>
4	Stictic acid present; ascospores 35–48 µm long (1:.).....	5. <b>H. radicolata</b>
4:	Stictic acid absent; ascospores > 100 µm long .....	5
5	Ascospores 100–150 µm long (4:.) .....	2. <b>H. contortum</b>
5:	Ascospores 155–225 µm long .....	6. <b>H. rimulosum</b>