PHYSCIDIA

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Physcidia Tuck., *Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts Sci.* 5: 399 (1862); a derivative of *Physcia* because of their superficial resemblance. *Physcia* originated from the Greek *physcké*, used to describe the large intestine, a sausage or a blister and referring to thalli with hollow lobes (effectively a misnomer since species such as '*Physcia physodes*' [= *Hypogymnia physodes*] are no longer included in the genus).

Lecto: *P. wrightii* (Tuck.) Tuck.

Thallus squamulose or foliose. Squamules 0.1–1.0 mm wide, or lobes 1–3 mm wide. Isidia present or absent; lacinules and soredia absent. Upper cortex 10–50 µm thick, of types 1 or 1–2. Photobiont a unicellular green alga (*Pseudochlorella*); cells 5–15 µm diam., forming a continuous layer. Medulla usually well developed, 60–450 µm thick, of ±densely irregularly interwoven non-amyloid thick-walled hyphae, frequently containing lichen substances. Lower cortex absent. Prothallus present or absent. Apothecia biatorine or zeorine, sessile, simple or aggregated, attached laminally to the lobes; disc ±round, plane to convex, whitish, pale brown to dark brown. Proper exciple composed of conglutinated radially orientated hyphae, pale tan to brown; usually surrounded by a thalline sheath that appears ±crenulate, so that the apothecium can be pseudolecanorine. Epihymenium indistinct or a thin gelatinous layer with slight pigmentation, K–. Hymenium colourless, 20–60 µm thick, amyloid. Hypothecium colourless. Paraphyses 1.5–2.5 µm thick, not or only slightly thickened at the apex. Asci clavate, with a distinct amyloid apical dome, an axial mass and ocular chamber. Ascospores simple or 1–3-septate, filiform or bacilliform, colourless, 15–40 × 1.2–3.0 µm, thin-walled. Conidiomata pycnidial, 0.1–0.3 mm wide, immersed or raised in small corticate warts, occasionally in groups of 2–4; outer wall tan to reddish brown; ostiole flesh-coloured or with a distinct reddish tinge; conidiogenous cells enteroblastic, cylindrical to flask-shaped, arising directly from pycnidial wall cells, of type III (*sensu* G.Vobis, 1980). Conidia bacilliform to filiform, straight or curved, 10–30 × 0.5–1.2 µm.

A pantropical genus, currently containing seven species, one of which occurs in Australia. These lichens are found in tropical forests where they grow primarily on bark, but also on decorticated wood and overgrowing bryophytes.

G.Vobis, Bau und Entwicklung der Flechten-Pycnidien und ihrer Conidien, *Biblioth. Lichenol.* 14: 1–141 (1980); K.Kalb & J.A.Elix, The lichen genus *Physcidia*, *Biblioth. Lichenol.* 57: 265–296 (1995).