

***Pertusaria pycnothelia*** Nyl., *Bull. Soc. Linn. Normandie*, sér. 2, 2: 70 (1868)

T: Lifu, New Caledonia, 1864, *D.Thiébaud s.n.*; lecto: H-NYL 22960, *fide* J.A.Elix, A.Aptroot & A.W.Archer, *Mycotaxon* 64: 32 (1997).

Illustration: A.W.Archer, *Biblioth. Lichenol.* 69: 132, fig. 47 (1997).

Thallus pale fawn, thin, smooth and glossy, lacking soredia and isidia. Apothecia numerous, verruciform, scattered, sometimes confluent and forming an almost continuous covering, concolorous with the thallus, flattened-hemispherical, 0.5–0.8 mm diam. Ostiole conspicuous, black-punctiform, in a translucent pale brown zone, 0.3–0.5 mm diam., 1 per verruca. Ascospores 2 per ascus, ellipsoidal to subfusiform, smooth, (95–) 110–137 × 35–40 µm.

*Chemistry*: Thallus K–, KC–, C–, Pd–; containing 2'-*O*-methylperlatolic acid (major) and 4,5-dichlorolichexanthone (minor).

Corticolous in northern N.T. and north-eastern Qld; also in New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea.

N.T.: Charles Darwin Natl Park, Winnellie, 6 km E of Darwin, *J.A.Elix* 43186, 43197, 43220 (CANB). Qld: Peninsula Development Rd, 56 km NW of Coen, 5 km SE of Archer R. crossing, *H.Streimann* 56326 (CANB); Cooya Beach, *W.H.Ewers* 8499 (CANB).

*Pertusaria pycnothelia* is characterised by asci with 2 ascospores and the presence of 4,5-dichlorolichexanthone and 2'-*O*-methylperlatolic acid in the thallus. The chemically similar *P. trachyspora* (from Western Australia) has ascospores with rough inner walls.