

Masonhalea Krnef.

(LECANORALES: PARMELIACEAE)

After Thomson (1984)

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Thallus growing loose (vagrant), prostrate, unattached, of major branches dividing irregularly or dichotomizing in one plane, curling into balllike masses when dry; upper surface dark brown, becoming olivebrown when wet; lower surface concolorous on corticate portions but with large areas decorticate and whitish to bluish pruinose; upper cortex very thick and prosoplectenchymatous, composed of gelatinized and very thickwalled hyphae giving the thallus a horny texture; medulla thick and dense, white. Medulla UV+ bluish, KC+ pinkish or red (alectoronic acidan orcinol depsidone). Nonpored epicortex present; pseudocyphellae absent. Cortex brown, N. Cell walls containing Cetrariatype lichenan (medulla I+ blue). Rhizines absent.

Apothecia marginal, eperforate; margin thalloid; asci cylindrical to clavate; spores 8, hyaline, simple, ellipsoid to subglobose (813 x 56 um).

Pycnidia marginal, emergent; conidia cylindrical (57 x 1 um). Photobiont Trebouxia. On soil, Arcticalpine. Type species: M. richardsonii. Monotypic.

M. richardsonii (Hook.) Krnef.

Thallus foliose, dichotomously to irregularly divided, when dry rolled up into balllike masses, horny in texture; lobes sharp pointed and antlerlike; upper side chestnut brown when dry, becoming olive green to greenish brown when moist; underside paler brown with conspicuous pruinose patches, lacking rhizines. Apothecia rare, at tips of lobes, the margins crenate, concolorous with thallus, inflexed; disk 4-8 mm diam., brown, almost concolorous with thallus, shiny. Medulla K, C+ and KC+ orange to red, P, UV+ white (alectoronic acid). Growing loose on soil, being blown across arctic tundras by winds, gathering in low spots and wet places where it spreads out in the moisture. Arctic (Alaska to Hudson's Bay).

Literature

Elix, J. 1993. Genera of Parmeliaceae.

Thomson, J. W. 1984. American Arctic Lichens. I. The
Macrolichens. U. of Columbia Press, New York