

Peridiothelia D. Hawksw.

After Hawksworth, 1985

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Ascomata arising singly, immersed at first but soon becoming erumpent and \pm superficial at maturity, dark brown to black, dimidiate at first, \pm mammiform at maturity, ostiolate, ostiole depressed (not papilliform); involucrellum absent; peridium composed entirely of fungal tissue, not involving host cells as an integral part of it (not clypeate), composed of small and irregularly thickened rounded pseudoparenchymatous cells (textura globulosa) but the cells sometimes polyhedral in the angles of the ascomata and near the base (textura angularis), dark reddish brown except below the generative locule where the wall is poorly developed or almost absent in maturity, color not changed significantly in K; centrum l+ blue. Hamathecium consisting of pseudoparaphyses, which are persistent, cellular, filamentous, branching and anastomosing. Asci arising from the base of the ascomatal cavity, elongate clavate to subcylindrical, short-stalked, bitunicate, with an internal apical beak, discharge fissitunicate, 8-spored. Ascospores distichously arranged, ellipsoid, rounded at the apices, 1-septate, the cells usually \pm equal in size, mainly reddish brown, weakly verruculose, with a thin gelatinous sheath scarcely swelling in K. Anomorph unknown. On bark, usually of living trees. Not lichenized and probably saprophytic, but sometimes appearing to have a thallus due to growth through overlying thalli.

P. grandiuscula (Anzi) D. Hawksw.

Ascomata arising singly, scattered, not or poorly delimited, erumpent, to 2/3 exposed with irregularly ruptured host tissue around the base, broadly conical to hemispherical, applanate, (150-)200-300(-325) μ m diam., (80-)100-150(-170) μ m tall, lacking a basal fringe, ostiole \pm plane to depressed at maturity, black and shining; peridium (15-)20-30(-35) μ m thick, cells mainly 4-7 μ m diam., often becoming compressed radially in the outer layers, the interstices becoming occluded with red-brown material; basal tissue present from early stages, \pm continuous but sometimes becoming interrupted in older ascomata, to 20 μ m thick in parts, cells identical to those of the upper walls; ascomatal cavity lined by hyaline strongly compressed pseudoparenchymatous to almost hyphal cells forming a layer to 15 μ m thick at the base (overlying the darker-celled basal layer); centrum l+ blue, at least in parts. Pseudoparaphyses 1.5-2.5 μ m thick. Asci \pm vertically oriented, 80-100 x 20-25 μ m. Ascospores (22-)25-33(-35) x (9-)10-12(-13) μ m, usually rounded at the apices, the lower cell sometimes slightly narrower, golden-brown to reddish brown, gelatinous sheath to 1.5 μ m thick in K. On bark of a wide range of trees, not really lichenicolous, but erumpent through the thallus of Lecanora impudens. Arizona.

Differs from other members of the genus in the large size of its spores. Can be confused with Kirschsteiniothelia aethiops, which has similar-sized spores but differs by: spores usually more strongly attenuated at the apices; with palisade-like arrangement of cells in the angles of the ascomatal cavity; centrum typically 1-; ascomata usually directly on rotting wood; conidiophores of the anamorph often present.

Literature

Hawksworth, D. L. 1985. [Species placed in Microthelia]