

Ptychographa

After Coppins (1992) and McCune (1997)

Rev. November 2, 1997

Thallus crustose, indistinct, of minute, discrete, dark brown granules (goniocysts) scattered on or just below the surface of the substratum; granules 20-50 µm diam. Photobiont chlorococcoid.

Ascomata apothecia, narrowly elongated (lirellate) or sometimes becoming angular or rounded, black; disk slit-like, at least when young. True exciple brown-black, friable, of conglutinated hyphae. Hypothecium dark brown, merged with the exciple. Hymenium K/I+ blue. Hamathecium of scanty, simple or sparingly branched paraphyses, apices dark brown, conflutinated (forming an epithecium). Asci 8-spored, clavate, with a K/I+ blue outer fuzzy coat. Ascospores ellipsoid, simple, colorless, without a thickened perispore.

Conidiomata pycnidia. Conidia bacilliform, simple, colorless.

Spot tests and chemistry: P-, K-, KC-, C-, UV-; no substances.

On hard or dry wood.

Differs from Xylographa in having a black and friable exciple.

P. xylographoides Nyl.

Thallus granules with cortex of uniformly brown, angular cells c. 4-7 µm wide. Photobiont cells 6-14 µm diam. Apothecia 0.3-1.4 x 0.1-0.3 mm, narrowly elongate, usually unbranched, running parallel with the grain of the wood; with (1-)2(rarely more) longitudinal slits each indicating a parallel hymenium below, which are separated by dark brown tissue; hymenium 45-60 µm, colorless or greenish tinged along edge of exciple and epithecium, I+ yellowish, K/I+ blue; paraphyses 1-2 µm wide; ascospores 8.5-13 x 4.5-6.5 µm, ellipsoid. Pycnidia c. 40-50 µm diam., frequent, immersed to superficial, thickish, the wall dark brown; conidia 4-7 x 0.8 µm.

On wood in coniferous forests, western Oregon and Washington.

Literature

Coppins, B. 1992. Ptychographa. In: Purvis, et al., Lichen Flora of Great Britain and Ireland

McCune, B. 1997. Ptychographa, a lichen genus new to North America. The Bryologist 100: 239-240.