

Helminthocarpon Feé
(GRAPHIDACEAE)

Genus description after Rogers
species description after Awasthi & Joshi (1979)

Rev. 4/96

Thallus crustose, uniform, ecorticate or poorly corticate, attached to the substrate by medullary hyphae. Apothecia immersed to adnate, irregular, roundish to stellate or branched; proper margin thin, usually covered in a thalloid layer; hypothecium pale; paraphyses thin, reticulate; asci cylindrical to clavate, unitunicate, I-, thin-walled, 4-8-spored; spores fusiform to oblong, muriform, hyaline. Pycnidia unknown. Photobiont Trentepohlia.

H. leprevostii Fée

Thallus corticolous, crustaceous, epiphloedal to partially hypophloedal, effuse, glaucous white to gray, smooth to faintly verrucose, generally cracked, (80-)135-150(-250) μ m thick; corticiform layer 40-60 μ m thick, composed of irregularly disposed hyphae; photobiont green (Trentepohlia?), in 40-70(090) μ m thick stratum.

Pseudothecia initially innate, eventually erumpent, round to lirellate verruciform, adnate to somewhat constricted at base, straight to curved or flexuose, simple to bifid or triradiate, uniformly or irregularly 1-1.5 mm wide and 1-5 mm long, ends rounded, apically or longitudinally fissured exposing plane to grooved whitish ascostroma; marginal region concolorous with thallus, enclosing brown-black to black, 80-100 μ m thick vertical excipuloid tissue (varying in length, apparently with age of the ascocarp), rarely excipuloid tissue absnet; a narrow, \pm vertically disposed tissue of spetate hyphae between ascostroma and the excipuloid region. Ascostrom sharply defined, ca. 600 μ m wide, 400-500 μ m high, soft and spongy; pseudoparaphyses 1.5-2 μ m thick, intricately but loosely net-like brnached and anastomosed throughout the depth and width of ascostroma; asci bitunicate (as seen in congo-red), cylindrico-clavate to ovate, 270-360 x 64-96 μ m, 8 spored; ascus wall 6-8 μ m thick at apex. Hypothecioid region colorless, 50-60 μ m thick. Spores colorless, multicelled muriform (parenchymatous type) with 18-34 transverse and 4-7 longitudinal septa, oblong-ellipsoid, (84-)90-165 x (22-)28-55 μ m, I+ violet blue, often with 3-9 μ m wide gelatinous sheath (halo); sometimes spores with few transverse and single longitudinal septa.

Thallus K-, C+ pink or red, P-. Eyrthrin and usually schizopeltic acid. Mexico, and somewhere in the U.S. (probably Florida or possibly southern California).

Literature

Awasthi, D. and M. Joshi. 1979. [Helminthocarpon, Cyclographa and Cyclographina]

Rogers, 19_. Genera of Australian Lichens.