

Metamelanea Henssen
(LICHINACEAE)

After Henssen, 1970, 1989

Rev. 5/94

Thallus blackish, cracked areolate, of densely aggregated rows of lichenized colonies of a single-celled cyanobiont breaking up into vertical lobes. Photobiont a member of the Chroococcales with a brown gelatinous sheath. Apothecia darkly pigmented, immersed or adnate; disc flat and multiseptate or umbonate to gyrose; primordia arising not within but between the lobes. Pycnidia immersed, the oblong, conidiogenous cells producing small, terminal, rod-like conidia. Type species: M. umbonata Henssen

M. melambola (Tuck.) Henssen (synonyms: Synalissa melambola, Pyrenopsis melambola)

Thallus orbicular, to 3 mm diam., blackish green or blackish olive, rimose areolate to squamulose; areoles ca. 0.52 mm broad and 0.50.8 mm thick, formed of densely aggregated erect lobes, the marginal squamules effigurate, attached by colorless broad hyphal strands; lobes 20-40 mm diam., irregular or articulated; thallus partly pseudoparenchymatous with round or angular cells; hyphal cells 6-15 µm broad. Photobiont a species of the Chroococcaceae, the cells 6.5-12 µm diam., aggregated mainly in the upper and lower part of the thallus, with a brown gelatinous sheath. Apothecia inconspicuous and concolorous with thallus (more visible when wet), thallinocarpous, with well developed thalline margin, laminal, to 0.3 mm diam.; hymenium becoming multiseptate, the fertile parts 5-150 µm [sic; supposed to be 50?] broad and 90-120 µm high, I+ blue; subhymenium 35-45 µm high; exciple and epithecium brown-black; paraphyses branched and anastomosing, ca. 1.5 µm thick; asci long-cylindrical, 75-105 x 7 µm. spores 8 or fewer per ascus, 1-celled, colorless, subglobose, often deformed, in the ascus 9.5-12 x 6-7 µm (according to Henssen, 1989; 58 x 35 µm according to Henssen, 1970). Pycnidia unknown (according to Henssen, 1989, but present, with pycnosporangia 23 x 1 µm, according to Henssen, 1970). On seepage surfaces on rocks, Vermont and Alabama.

Literature

Fink, B. 1935. Lichen Flora of the United States.

Henssen, A. 1970. New or interesting North American lichens I. The Bryologist 73(3): 617623.

Henssen, A. 1989. Metamelanea and Stromatella, new genera of Lichinaceae. Lichenologist 21(2): 101118.