

Synalissa Fr.

After Gilbert & Coppins, 1992

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Thallus minutely fruticose; lobes erect, little branched or coralloid, forming small cushions, black when dry, red-brown and gelatinous when wet, ecorticate, undifferentiated; composed of little branched hyphae in the algal gel forming \pm angular patterns, enclosing the photobiont clusters; centrally with a hyphal core devoid of photobiont cells; attached to substrate by rhizines.

Apothecia terminal, immersed in the lobe tips; initially \pm globose, closed, with a poroid disc, later \pm open and expanded with a thalloid margin; hymenium gelatinous; hypothecium hyaline to brown; hymenium 1-; paraphyses unbranched, thin, slender; asci cylindrical (clavate according to Rogers), unitunicate, thin walled, 1+ blue; spores 8-32, \pm broadly ellipsoid to spherical, simple, hyaline, thin walled.

Pycnidia immersed, terminal; wall colorless; fulcrum acrogenous (endobasidial); pycnospores elliptical to elongate or bacilliform, simple, colorless. Photobiont Gloeocapsa. No substances. Mainly on calcareous rocks or soils.

Distinguished from Lempholomma by the Gloeocapsa photobiont, and from other genera (e.g., Pyrenopsis) with similar photobionts by the shrubby habit.

Thallus forming small, dense cushions or tufts to 3-4 mm tall, consisting of stout, leathery, erect or decumbent branches with blunt, swollen ends in which apothecia or pycnidia may develop, dull black; branches parallel to becoming dichotomously branched, the branches short, round, obtuse, often densely lustered. Photobiont cells 5-6 μ m diam., often in small groups of 2-3; in outer part of thallus and thalline exciple, with reddish sheaths, 1+ violet. Apothecia 0.2-0.5(-0.8) mm diam., terminal, partly immersed; disc often remaining pore-like, sometimes expanding and then concave to flat or slightly convex, reddish brown to black; thalline exciple to 150 μ m wide, colored like thallus; true exciple indistinct; hymenium to 125 μ m tall, colorless; hypothecium to 40 μ m tall, colorless to pale brown, of interwoven hyphae. Paraphyses to 1 μ m wide. Asci to 100 μ m tall, 8-24-spored; spores ellipsoid to spherical, 7-10(-12) x 6-9 μ m. Conidia 3-4 x 1-1.5 μ m. On limestone rocks, usually in small crevices among other lichens (e.g., Catapyrenium species, Psora lurida, Toninia sedifolia). Alabama. Often confused with some Lempholomma species, which, however, have Nostoc as photobiont. S. symphorea (Ach.) Nyl.

Need X-ref. to Peccania (P. subnigra and P. texana)

Literature

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

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Rogers, 19 . Genera of Australian Lichens.