

Biatoropsis (parasite)

B. usnearum Rsnen

Basidiomata extremely variable in form, size and color, generally subspherical and convex with a constricted base, often with lobate margins, sometimes flattened or with a concave central part, rarely effuse and covering larger areas around the branches of the the host; surface smooth, rarely tuberculate, cartilaginous, pale pinkish, reddish brown, dark brown or black, 0.22.5 mm diam.; context hyphae 23 um wide, mostly unifrom, the walls not markedly thickened, clamps absent; haustorial branches frequent, mother cell subspherical or sometimes elongate, 2.54.5 um diam., haustorial filament 0.51 um thick, 37 um long. Hymenium hyaline, sometimes reddish brown in upper part and then yellow in 5% KOH; thickness variable, containing numerous probasidia. Basidia, when mature, clavate to subcylindrical, with 13transverse septa, 2044 x 36.5 um; epibasidia 23 um thick, to 85 um long. Basidiospores subglobose to ellipsoid, with a distinct apiculum, 4.58 x 47.5 um. Anamorph hyphomycetous, often present, forming long branching chains of hyaline, ellipsoid, simple conidia, 35 x 23.5 um. On Usnea spp. Yukon to Arizona, east to central Rocky Mountains.

Literature: Diederich, P. and M. S. Christiansen. 1994. Biatoropsis usnearum Rsnen, and other Heterobasidiomycetes on Usnea. Lichenologist 26(1): 4766.