

Acarospora Massal.
(LECANORALES: ACAROSPORACEAE)

Thallus crustose, often distinctly areolate or subsquamulose, rarely squamulose; areoles or squamules scattered to contiguous, rarely overlapping, angular to rounded, \pm uniform or sometimes forming marginal lobes; upper surface smooth or wrinkled, pale brown, red- to black-brown, or occasionally rust colored, or bright greenish yellow to yellow, or weakly to very densely white-pruinose; attached to substrate only by medullary hyphae; differentiated with a paraplectenchymatous upper and sometimes lower cortex; algal layer continuous or \pm discontinuous, lower part often very uneven; medulla compact. Isidia and soredia absent.

Apothecia usually deeply immersed, rarely \pm sessile, single to many per areole; disk round or irregular, red-brown to brown-black, or sometimes yellow in species with yellow thallus, smooth or roughened, rarely including 1 or several thickened, sterile umbos; thalloid exciple ill defined to \pm prominent, \pm elevated and darkened; hypothecium pale, over an algal layer; paraphyses numerous, mostly unbranched, septate, conglutinate, thin to thick, swollen or moniliform at apices; asci unitunicate, thick walled, clavate, inflated, I+ pale blue; apical dome (tholus) I- or I+ [pale] blue in some species; spores many (usually more than 100), usually very minute, simple, hyaline, narrowly to broadly ellipsoid or globose.

Pycnidia immersed; fulcrum exobasidial; pycnosporos oblong-ellipsoid to globose. Rhizocarpic acid (in yellow species), gyrophoric acid, acaronoic acid, lecanoric acid, norstictic acid, usnic acid, or no substances. Photobiont trebouxoid. On rock, usually siliceous, more rarely calcareous, especially in drier areas, often in nutrient-rich or enriched habitats, very rarely on wood or compacted soil. Cosmopolitan.

Literature (Acarospora as a genus):

Purvis & James, 1992. Acarospora. In: Purvis, et al., Lichen Flora of Great Britain and Ireland.

Rogers, 19 . Genera of Australian Lichens.

Galloway, D. 1985. Flora of New Zealand Lichens.