

**Polymeridium** (Müll. Arg.) R. C. Harris

After Harris (1975, 1990, 1995)

Rev. November 17, 1998

Thallus whitish, endophloedal, not differentiated into layers. Perithecia flattened, hemispherical or subglobose, immersed or superficial; outer layer of ascocarp wall brown to blackish, often lacking below. Hamathecial gel I-. Paraphyses rather loosely and reticately branched; hymenium interspersed with amorphous granules or not. Asci cylindrical to narrowly elliptical or narrowly ovate, with a small, shallow ocular chamber. Spores biserial or irregularly arranged, hyaline, narrowly ovate or narrowly elliptical, 4-10-celled, cells approximately equal; slightly constricted at the septa; endospore gradually filling lumen in age, mostly not becoming brownish or ornamented; perispore visible, occasionally rather thick, to 2 µm. Microconidia bacilliform, 5-12 x 1 µm. Lichexanthone in thallus of several species. Lichenized or not. On bark.

Placed in TRYPETHELIACEAE by Harris, but spores with true septa and ± cylindrical cells.

**1. Ascospores muriform**, 39-54 x 15-19 µm, ca. 1-3(-4) x 8-11-septate; septa amyloid (I+ violet). Thallus white to ashy, usually UV+ yellow (lichexanthone) or sometimes UV-, thin, smooth to slightly rough, chinky, sometimes becoming powdery. Perithecia 0.15-0.4 mm across, round to irregular; superficial portion depressed-convex, black or more commonly whitish pruinose, the ostiole rarely visible; hypothecium dark brown; spores 4-8, oblong-ellipsoid, irregularly arranged. Ostiole lateral. Hymenium not interspersed. On bark. Florida, Louisiana, S. Carolina, Tennessee. .... P. proponens (Nyl.) R. C. Harris ined. (syn. Campylothelium amylosporum, Polyblastiopsis dealbens)

**1. Ascospores transversely septate.** ..... 2

**2. Ascospores 5-11-celled.** ..... 3

**2. Ascospores 4-celled.** ..... 4

**3. Spores (5-)6-8(-9)-celled, 18-22.5-27 x 4-5.5-7 µm (excluding perispore).** Thallus whitish. Trentepohlia present or apparently absent. Ascocarps hemispherical, superficial, 0.25-0.5(-0.6) mm diam.; wall usually lacking below. Hymenium interspersed. Asci narrowly elliptical to narrowly ovate, (65-)75-90 x (15-)18-21 µm. Spores narrowly ovate; perispore thin. Microconidia linear, 9-12 x 1 µm. On smooth bark. S. Carolina, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Texas. .... P. quinqueseptatum (Nyl.) R. C. Harris

**3. Spores 8-10-celled, 27-32.3-40 x 5.5-7-8.5 µm (excluding perispore).** Thallus whitish, endophloedal. Trentepohlia apparently absent. Ascocarps hemispherical, mostly superficial but occasionally immersed, 0.3-0.6 mm diam.; wall lacking below. Hymenium heavily interspersed. Asci narrowly elliptical or narrowly obovate, (80-)100-120(-130) x 20-25 µm. Spores subbiserial to irregularly arranged, narrowly elliptical to narrowly ovate; perispore usually well developed. Microconidia linear, 7-11 µm. On smooth bark. Southern Florida, Mexico. .... P. albocinereum (Krempelh.) R. C. Harris ined. (synonym: P. pleiomerellum)

**4. Thallus UV+ yellow (lichexanthone); ascospores smooth, 22-33 x 7-10 µm (excluding perispore); perispore thin; hymenium not interspersed.** Thallus white, usually well developed. Ascocarps subglobose to hemispherical, mostly immersed, 0.3-

0.5 mm diam.; wall often lacking below. Asci narrowly elliptical or elliptical, 80-130 x 20-25 um. Spores irregularly arranged or less often biserial, narrowly elliptical or narrowly ovate, 4-celled. Microconidia bacilliform, 6-8 x 1 um. On bark, in Florida especially on Quercus; also found in Alabama. .... P. catapastum (Nyl.) R. C. Harris

**4. Thallus UV-** ..... 5

**5. Ascospores 13-15.3-17 x 4-5-6 um. Hymenium heavily inspersed;** Ascocarps hemispherical, semi-immersed, ca. 0.3 mm diam. Asci narrowly elliptical, 70-90 x 14-15 um. Spores subbiserial, narrowly elliptical or narrowly ovate, 4-celled; perispore very thin. On bark. Florida, Louisiana. .... P. contendens (Nyl.) R. C. Harris

**5. Ascospores averaging 18.5 um or more in length. Hymenium not inspersed.** ..... 6

**6. Spores 16-18.5-22 x 5-5.8-7 um; perispore thin; asci 70-85 x 15-22 um.** Ascocarps hemispherical or flattened, semi-immersed, 0.3-0.5 mm diam. Hymenium not inspersed. Asci narrowly elliptical. Spores biserial or subbiserial, narrowly elliptical to narrowly ovate, 4-celled. Microconidia bacilliform, 5-7 x 1 um. On bark. Florida, Louisiana, Texas. .... P. subcinereum (Nyl.) R. C. Harris

**6. Spores 19-22.3-25 x 5.5-6.6-7.5 um (excluding perispore); perispore well developed; asci 90-125 x 16-22 um.** Ascocarps subglobose, immersed or emergent, 0.3-0.4 mm diam. Hymenium not inspersed. Asci narrowly elliptical. Spores biserial, narrowly ovate, 4-celled. Microconidia linear, 9-10 x 1 um. On bark and petiole of palmetto, Florida. .... P. albidum (Müll. Arg.) R. C. Harris

ADD?

Spores granular ornamented, 28-36 x 9-12 um (excluding perispore); perispore thick. Thallus whitish, UV- or patchily UV+ yellowish (lichexanthone?). Trentepohlia present or absent. Ascocarps hemispherical to subglobose, mostly immersed, 0.4-0.6 mm diam.; wall occasionally extending outward above, thinner or lacking below; ostiole often somewhat eccentric. Hymenium not inspersed. Asci narrowly elliptical, with a small ocular chamber, 140-160 x 20-28 um. Spores biserial to almost uniserial, narrowly elliptical to narrowly ovate, 4-celled. Microconidia linear, 9-12 x 1 um. On bark, southern Florida. Not mentioned by Harris (1995) nor by Esslinger. .... P. exasperatum R. C. Harris

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pleiomerellum (Müll. Arg.) R. C. Harris = *P. albocinereum*

## Literature

Harris, R. C. 1975. The genus Arthopyrenia sensu lato in North America. Ph.D. dissertation, Michigan State U.

Harris, R. C. 1990. Some Florida Lichens. Published by the author.

Harris, R. C. 1995. More Florida Lichens.

Tucker, S. and R. C. Harris. 1980.