

Verrucaria halizoa Leight.

Lich. Fl. Gr. Brit. 436 (1871)

T: Great Britain; holo: *n.v.*

Verrucaria cribbii R.W.Rogers, *Austral. Syst. Bot.* 1: 181 (1988). T: south coast of Heron Is., Qld, 28 Jan. 1988, *R.W.Rogers s.n.*; holo: MEL.

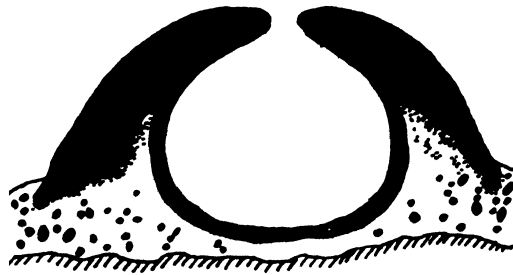
Illustrations: G.Clauzade & C.Roux, *Bull. Soc. Bot. Centre-Ouest*, n.s., numéro spécial 7: 812, fig. 402 (1985), as *V. microspora*; R.W.Rogers, *op. cit.* 182, fig. 1, as *V. cribbii*; P.M.McCarthy, *Muelleria* 7: 331, fig. 8A (1991).

Thallus epilithic, continuous to sparingly rimose, medium green to black, matt, smooth, gelatinous when wetted and 20–40 (–60) μm thick. Algae subglobose to globose, 4–9 μm diam. Prothallus not apparent. Perithecia semi-immersed to almost superficial, hemispherical to subconical, solitary, occasionally clustered, 0.18–0.3 mm diam., dull to glossy black; apex rounded; ostiole inconspicuous or a minute shallow depression. Involucrellum extending to exciple base level, often partly covered by a 15–25 μm thick layer of thallus, 30–40 μm thick and brown-black in thin section. Exciple c. 15 μm thick, grey-brown to brown-black. Centrum 0.11–0.17 mm wide. Periphyses c. 20 \times 1.5 μm . Asci 25–32 \times 10–15 μm . Ascospores ellipsoidal to subglobose, 7.5–12 \times 4.5–6.5 μm .

Known from coral in the lower littoral at one locality on the Great Barrier Reef, Qld. Also in northern and western Eurasia, North America, Greenland, China (Hong Kong), Japan, Chile, Marion Island, New Zealand and Antarctica.

Verrucaria halizoa is superficially rather similar to the more common *V. microsporoides*. However, the latter has larger perithecia and more elongate ascospores.

While littoral species of *Verrucaria* are most diverse and often very abundant at temperate latitudes, they are rare on tropical seashores. Thus the occurrence of *V. halizoa* on the Great Barrier Reef and its apparent absence in southern Australia is unexpected. *Verrucaria corallensis*, the other intertidal species in eastern Queensland, has a black-dotted thallus and longer ascospores (13–20 μm long).



0.2 mm

