

ALECTORIA

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Alectoria Ach., in Luyken, *Tent. Hist. Lich. Gen.* 95 (1809); from the Greek *alector* (chicken); from the similarity of the lichen to the tuft of feathers on the tail of a rooster.

Type: *A. sarmentosa* (Ach.) Ach.

Thallus erect or decumbent, much-branched, terete to subterete, becoming compressed, angular and \pm faveolate near base and at axils, mostly yellowish to blackened; isidia and soredia rarely present; lateral spinules absent; pseudocyphellae abundant, \pm raised, sometimes becoming sorediate; cortex of periclinial, conglutinated hyphae. Ascomata apothecial, lateral; disc dark brown to black; exciple concolorous with thallus, eciliate. Asci 2–4 spored, clavate. Ascospores ellipsoidal, non-septate, brown when mature, with a distinct hyaline episporium. Conidiomata pycnidial, rare, black. Conidia straight, $2-8 \times c. 0.8 \mu\text{m}$.

A genus of 8 species, widely distributed in cold to cool temperate regions, particularly in North America. One species in Australia.

D.L.Hawksworth, Regional studies in *Alectoria* (Lichens) II. The British species, *Lichenologist* 5: 181–261 (1972); I.M.Brodo & D.L.Hawksworth, *Alectoria* and allied genera in North America, *Opera Bot.* 42: 1–164 (1977); D.J.Galloway, *Fl. New Zealand Lich.* 4–5 (1985).