

SIPHULASTRUM

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Siphulastrum Müll. Arg., *Flora* 72: 143 (1889); from the lichen genus name *Siphula* and Latin suffix *-astrum* (generally more poorly developed). [The genus is not related taxonomically to the imperfect genus *Siphula*.]

Type: *S. triste* Müll. Arg.

Thallus small-squamulose to caespitose, often appearing ±coralloid or papillate, in dense compact mats, closely appressed to, or intermingled with, substratum. Upper surface smooth, often rimose to scabrid at lobe apices, greyish brown to ±blackened. Lower surface with some black rhizohyphae not projecting beyond lobes, pale brown or tan. Cyanobiont *Scytonema*, in short chains, not penetrating into base of hymenium. Ascomata apothecial, lecideine, laminal; disc ±flat, epruinose, black or dark brown; proper exciple persistent, slightly raised, concolorous with disc; thalline exciple absent; hymenium I+ red-brown. Asci without apical amyloid structures. Ascospores ellipsoidal, smooth-walled. Conidiomata pycnidial.

A genus of c. 5 species all found in exposed alpine grassland and rocky alpine grassland in subantarctic regions, Tierra del Fuego, Falkland Is, Macquarie Is., southern N.Z. and Tas. There is no recent monograph of the genus which is much in need of further study.

D.J.Galloway, *Siphulastrum*, in *Fl. New Zealand Lichens* 526–527 (1985).

Thallus with blue-grey, granular soralia

S. granulatum

Thallus without soralia but with terete, apically blackened, isidia-like laciniae

S. mamillatum