Verrucaria cootapatambensis P.M.McCarthy

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T: tributary of Swampy Plain R., 150 m E of L. Cootapatamba, Mount Kosciuszko Natl Park, N.S.W., alt. 2060 m, on small sandstone boulder in snow-melt creek, 14 Jan. 2002, *P.M.McCarthy 1801*; holo: CANB.

Illustrations: P.M.McCarthy, *op. cit.* 208, fig. 1.

Thallus epilithic, effuse to determinate, dull greenish or greyish black, ±smooth, sparingly to richly and delicately rimose, not areolate except around some perithecia, 20–40 (–50) µm thick, becoming greener, gelatinous and ±continuous when wetted. Cortex apparently lacking or consisting of dark, globose, thick-walled cells 3–5 (–7) µm diam.; these sometimes also clustered within the thallus. Algae irregularly massed, green to greenish orange, vertically oriented and broadly ellipsoid or globose, 5–9 (–11) × 4–8 µm. Prothallus not apparent; black basal layer absent. Perithecia numerous, semi-immersed to almost superficial, convex, hemispherical, subconical or subglobose, usually with a 10–15 µm thick covering of thallus over the lower half; apex rounded, truncate or subacute; ostiole inconspicuous or in a shallow, c. 20 µm diam. depression. Involucrellum dull black and minutely uneven in surface view, olive-black in thin section, extending down to excipulum base level, arching slightly away from the excipulum or ±contiguous with it, (0.19–) 0.26 (–0.33) mm diam., dense and 30–60 µm thick near the apex, more diffuse and 40–80 µm thick at the base; space between involucrellum and excipulum often containing rock crystals. Centrum globose to depressed-ovate, 0.12–0.18 mm diam. Excipulum dark greenish brown near the apex, at the sides and base with a hyaline inner layer and a pale to medium greenish brown outer layer, 15–20 µm thick. Periphyses 15–20 × 1.5–2 µm. Asci clavate to cylindroclavate, 42–52 (–60) × 14–20 µm. Ascospores ellipsoidal, obovate or subglobose, (8.5–) 11 (–14) × (6–) 7.5 (–9.5) µm.

Known only from the type locality in alpine N.S.W.