

Veздаea Tsch.-Woess & Poelt

After Giralt, et al., 1993, Purvis, and others

Rev. 5/94

Thallus crustose, of corticate, club-like and often thorn-like granules (goniocysts), usually developing below cuticle of bryophytes, etc. or below cortex of lichens, but the goniocysts may loosen and become diaspores. Photobiont Leptosira. Ascocarps apothecioid, but without exciple, rounded to spread out and irregular, appearing warty under high magnification, because of the prominent free asci. True exciple and hypothecium absent. Paraphyses often strongly reduced, usually branched, at times characteristically entwined around asci. Hymenium lacking gelatin. Asci loose-standing, not in a common enclosing gelatin, \pm cylindrical, thick-walled, apex thickened, I+ blue except for an apical pore; young ones with definite amyloid tholus. Spores 8, simple to 11-septate, colorless, with smooth or roughened walls. Conidiomata unknown, but conidiogenous cells producing simple, colorless conidia may be present. No substances. On plant debris, bryophytes, lichens, rocks, or often metal-rich soil, ephemeral.

This genus is extremely inconspicuous, and especially difficult to find because the apothecia are short-lived; material in best condition is collected in the winter and spring. Differs from Micarea by the lack of hymenial gelatin, lack of a true exciple, lack of distinct conidiomata, and lack of lichen products, and also by the different structure of the asci.

V. stipitata Poelt & Döbb.

Thallus scarcely visible, a thin, irregular crust. Ascocarps stalked, ca. 100-200 μ m diam.. Goniocysts absent. Asci (50-)55-65 x 10-13(-15) μ m. Paraphyses sparse and difficult to see. Spores 8 per ascus, ellipsoid, straight to weakly curved, (12-)13-15(-16) x 3-4 μ m, finally 1-septate, smooth-walled. On moss on shaded low limestone blocks.

ADD:

Veздаea sp. (syn. Catillaria terrena)

Spores ellipsoid. Thallus thin, composed of large, coarse, crenate, yellowish to reddish yellow granules. Hypothecium hyaline. Apothecia 0.1-0.2 mm diam., sessile; disk convex, yellowish flesh colored; exciple absent or soon disappearing; spores 14-18 x 3.5-5.5 μ m. On soil, Massachusetts and Illinois.

Literature

Giralt, M., J. Poelt & M. Suanjak. 1993. Die Flechtengattung Veздаea mit V. cobria spec. nov. Herzogia 9: 715-724.

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