

Catolechia Flotow
(LECANORALES: RHIZOCARPACEAE)

After Hawksworth, 1992

Rev. 5/94

Thallus squamulose to ± placodioid, thick, ridged, lobed at the margins, yellowgreen. Photobiont unidentified coccoid green algae. Medulla well developed, I, dark brown beneath, with rhizine strands extending into the substratum; prothallus absent. Apothecia black, arising between the lobes, immersed then becoming superficial. True exciple soon excluded, dark reddish brown; cells with scarcely distinct lumina. Thalline exciple absent. Epihymenium dark. Hymenium I+ blue. Hypothecium dark, of ± radiating hyphae. Paraphyses densely branched and anastomosing, not markedly swollen at the tips. Asci elongateclavate, the outer coat I+ blue, ± thickened at the apex, with an internal I+ deep blue, meniscuslike cap. Spores 8, ellipsoid, rounded at the ends, brown, 01(3)septate, smooth, lacking a distinct perispore, the central septum with an internal torus. Pycnidia unknown. Containing pulvinic acid derivatives. On soil, mosses or rock crevices, arcticalpine.

Thallus bright yellowgreen, sometimes stained brownish in parts, puckered and ± folded in ridges, the surface inspersed with yellowish crystals. Apothecia to 2 mm diam., arising between the squamules; adjacent cortical tissues dark red in section; epithecium dark olivegreen to ± black, K, N+ rose; hymenium 100200 µm tall; hypothecium dark brown, reddish in parts; asci 5070 x 1417 µm. Spores (12)1317(18) x 710 µm, (0)1(3)septate, brown. Thallus P+ yellow orange (medulla), K, KC, C (rhizocarpic acid and ?argopsin). On acid solifluction soils, mosses and rock crevices, arcticalpine. C. wahlenbergii

Literature

Hawksworth, D. L. 1992. Catolechia. In: Purvis, et al., Lichen Flora of Great Britain and Ireland.

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