

Megaspora (Clauz. & Roux) Hafellner & V. Wirth

Syn.: Pachyospora auct., non Massal.

After Purvis & James, 1992

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Thallus crustose, nonlobate, ± pruinose. Photobiont chlorococcoid. Apothecia deeply immersed in thalline verrucae. Thalline exciple present. True exciple thin, colorless or pale straw, of strongly conglutinated vertically aligned hyphae. Epihymenium brownish green, N+ bright green. Hymenium colorless, I+ blue. Hypothecium colorless. Paraphyses richly branched and anastomosing, not swollen at apices, strongly conglutinate. Asci clavate or cylindrical=clavate, thinwalled except towards the apex, with a K/I pale apical dome. Spores (4)8, large, simple, globose to shortly ellipsoid, colorless, wall uniformly thickened. No substances. On soil or more frequently mosses and plant remains, or sometimes wood, montane.

An aspicilioid segregate from Lecanora, characterized by the large, thickwalled spores, thin, numerous, anastomosing paraphyses, and growth on nonrock substrates.

M. verrucosa (Ach.) Hafellner & V. Wirth (including Pachyspora mutabilis)

Thallus ± tartareous, continuous or ± dispersed in irregular patches, of ± compacted or loosely coordinated, coarse, confluent, interconnecting granules; granules white to graywhite, somewhat mottled, swollen, convex or unevenly flattened; surface smooth, ± roughened or in part (especially near apothecia) finely scabridareolate, ± densely whitepruinose. Apothecia 0.5-1.5 mm diam., 1(2) in coarse thalline warts; disc 0.2-0.4(0.7) mm diam., poriform or ± expanded, grayblack or black, roughened but not pruinose, the disc color extending outwards over true exciple and inner part of thalline exciple, forming a dark halo around the disc; thalline exciple, like the cortex, densely packed with small granules; photobiont zone without granules; medulla and area below apothecia also densely granular, not dissolving in K; epithecium ± grayblack in part, K+ brownish, not granular; hymenium 20-250 µm tall; asci 20-230 x 4-50 µm. Spores (30)35-60(60) x (21)25-39(42) µm, the wall 1.5-2.5 µm thick. Thallus P, K, KC, C. On soil, or more frequently over mosses and plant remains on calcareous rocks, very rarely on consolidated

shell sand. Usually in the mountains. Arctic, and southward at least in the west.

Literature

Poelt & Vezda. 1977. Erg. I.

Purvis, O. W. and P. W. James. 1992. Megaspora. In: Purvis, etal., Lichen Flora of Great Britain and Ireland.