

Tornabea Osth.
(PHYSICIACEAE)

After Purvis, 1992

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Thallus fruticose, shrubby, often entangled and spreading, \pm dichotomously divided, divergent, rounded or often \pm flattened and angular. Cortex of conglomerated, thick-walled hyphae mostly oriented longitudinally, sometimes covered with a thin, colorless amorphous layer, present on both surfaces. Algae trebouxoid. Medulla lax to almost absent, sometimes containing calcium oxalate.

Apothecia sessile, lateral. Thalline margin persistent. Hymenium colorless. Paraphyses \pm thickened, branched apices brown. Asci 8-spored, elongate-clavate, Lecanora-type. Spores brown, ellipsoid, polarilocular.

Pycnidia common, immersed; ostioles brown. Conidiophores type VII of Vobis (1980); conidia fusiform or bacilliform, ca. 3.5-4.5(-5) x 1 μ m.

No substances.

On rocks and twigs in well-lit situations.

The genus closely resembles Anaptychia in the polarilocular, brown ascospores and non-pseudoparenchymatous cortex, but the lobes are entirely corticate, with a radial structure, are not dorsiventral, and lack the marginal rhizines present in the \pm shrubby Anaptychia species.

T. scutellifera (With.) Laundon

Thallus 2-3 cm tall, tufted, glaucous gray, pale gray-brown to reddish brown; branches to 1 mm diam., dichotomously or \pm irregularly branched, locally entangled, glabrous to tomentose or finely pubescent, rounded or \pm flattened and angular, occasionally somewhat channeled, gradually narrowing towards apices; with or without blastidia.

Apothecia rare, sessile, to 1 mm diam.; disc black-brown, convex; thalline exciple thin, entire, gray.

Thallus P-, K-, KC-, C- (no substances).

On rocks, sand, trunks of old trees, and old barns in British Isles; on maritime shrubs in California. Channel Islands of S. California; Baja California.

See Nimis & Tretiach for more info.

Literature

Nimis, P. L. and M. Tretiach. 1997. A revision of Tornabaea, a genus of fruticose lichens new to North America. The Bryologist 100: 217-225.

Poelt & Vezda. 1981. Erg. II.

Purvis, O. W. 1992. Tornabea. In: Purvis, et al., Lichen Flora of Great Britain and Ireland.