

## FIBRILLITHECIS

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*Fibrillithecis* Frisch, in A.Frisch, K.Kalb & M.Grube, *Biblioth. Lichenol.* 92: 135 (2006); from the Latin *fibrilla* (a small fibre) and *theca* (a case), in reference to the fibrils on the apical part of the proper exciple.

Type: *F. vernicosa* (Zahlbr.) Frisch [= *F. halei* (Tuck. & Mont.) Mangold]

*Thelotrema* sect. *Tremotylipsis* Zahlbr., *Denkschr. Kaiserl. Akad. Wiss. Wien, Math.-Naturwiss. Kl.* 83: 120 (1909). T: *T. insigne* Zahlbr. [= *F. insignis* (Zahlbr.) Frisch]

Thallus immersed to superficial, pale greenish to yellowish grey, dark olive-grey or off-white, with a true cortex. Photobiont trentepohlioid. Prothallus absent or thin to indistinct and brownish. Ascomata ±round to slightly irregular, perithecioid to apothecioid. Proper exciple fused to apically free, thick, forming lateral paraphysis-like structures by apically and distinctly radiating hyphae, hyaline internally to yellowish brown, orange reddish or dark brown marginally, apically sometimes greyish brown to dark brown, non-amyloid. Hymenium non-amyloid, not inspersed, conglutinated; paraphyses unbranched, parallel, ±bent, irregular and often distinctly multicellular, the apices thickened; lateral paraphyses present; columellar structures absent. Epihymenium usually hyaline, sometimes brownish, with fine greyish granules. Asci 8-spored, clavate, non-amyloid. Ascospores 2–4-seriate, submuriform to muriform, hyaline, amyloid, halonate or not; ascospore wall thin to thick.

Chemistry: Containing β-orcinol depsidones and unknowns.

This genus was introduced to accommodate three species with a distinctly fibrous proper exciple. Only two species are accepted here, *F. halei* and *F. insignis*; the former lacks isidia, while *F. insignis*, which is not known from Australia, has branched, cylindrical isidia. *Fibrillithecis platyspora* and *F. vernicosa* are considered to be synonymous with *F. halei*.

The species of *Fibrillithecis* were previously placed in *Thelotrema*, based on the interpretation of the apical excipular fibrils as lateral paraphyses, or in *Myriotrema* due to a stronger emphasis on characters such as the perithecioid ascomata and the fused proper exciple. *Myriotrema* is a similar and apparently closely related genus (Frisch *et al.*, 2006), but further studies are required to clarify the status of *Fibrillithecis*.

A.Frisch, K.Kalb & M.Grube (eds), Contributions towards a new systematics of the lichen family Thelotremataceae, *Biblioth. Lichenol.* 92: 1–556 (2006).