



RACODIUM ¹

Gintaras Kantvilas ²

Racodium Fr., *Syst. Mycol.* 3: 229 (1829).

Type: *R. rupestre* Pers.

Thallus filamentous, black, forming irregular, undelimited tufts or spreading, felt-like mats. Photobiont *Trentepohlia*, with cells in long chains 10–16(–20) µm wide. Fungal hyphae 1–1.5 µm thick, arranged in a parallel manner and forming a ± regular, rectangular pattern over the surface of the algal cells. Ascomata and conidiomata unknown. Chemistry: nil.

A monotypic, obligately sterile genus. It is identical morphologically to *Cystocoleus*, which has rather nodulose hyphae of uneven thickness, arranged irregularly over the algal filaments. Superficially similar, filamentous lichen genera such as *Ephebe* differ by having a cyanobacterial photobiont.

Key references: Kantvilas (2002); Galloway (2007); Fletcher & Dalby (2009).

1 *Racodium rupestre* Pers.

Neues Mag. Bot. 1: 123 (1794).

A bipolar-pantemperate species. In Tasmania, it occupies a similar habitat to *Cystocoleus ebeneus*, in sheltered clefts and overhangs of rock outcrops and large boulders, but is far less common and is seemingly restricted to higher elevations. The two species may occur together. Observation at high power of the hyphal arrangement is mandatory for distinguishing these two lichens. The filaments of *Racodium* tend to be darker and more opaque, and observing the hyphae is made easier by eluting water mounts with dilute nitric acid, which gradually clears some of the dark pigment.

Mt Arrowsmith, 42°12'S 146°05'E, 960 m, 1964, G.C. Bratt 1778 (HO); track to Mother Cummings Peak, 41°41'S, 146°32'E, 1000 m, 2002, G. Kantvilas 149/02 (HO); South Sister, lower slope near car park, 41°32'S 148°10'E, 750 m, 2004, G. Kantvilas 427/04 (HO).

REFERENCES

Fletcher A, Dalby DH (2009) *Racodium* Fr. In CW Smith, A Aptroot, BJ Coppins, A Fletcher, OL Gilbert, PW James, PA Wolseley (eds), *The Lichens of Great Britain and Ireland*, p. 781. (British Lichen Society: London).

Galloway DJ (2007) *Flora of New Zealand Lichens*. Revised second edition. (Manaaki Whenua Press: Lincoln).

Kantvilas G (2002) *Agyrium* Fr., *Bryophagus* Nitchke ex Arnold and *Racodium* Fr., lichen genera previously unrecorded for Australia. *Muelleria* **16** 65–70.

1 This work can be cited as: Kantvilas G (2024). *Racodium*, version 2024:1. In MF de Salas (Ed.) *Flora of Tasmania Online*. 2 pp. (Tasmanian Herbarium, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery: Hobart). <https://flora.tmag.tas.gov.au/lichen-genera/racodium/>

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