



WAWEA^{1 2}

Gintaras Kantvilas³

Wawea Henssen & Kantvilas, *Lichenologist* 17: 86 (1985).

Type: *W. fruticulosa* Henssen & Kantvilas

Thallus fruticose, corticate, homoiomerous, arising from a patchy, effuse, glossy black or greyish prothallus, or attached to the substratum by rhizoidal hyphae c. 3.5 µm thick. Photobiont *Nostoc*, with cells 2.5–5(–7) µm diam. in chains or clusters, ± evenly dispersed through the thallus. Ascomata apothecia, biatorine, lateral, convex to subglobose, at length becoming multi-divided, sessile and basally constricted, substipitate when old. Proper exciple indistinct, reflexed, in section cupulate, paraplectenchymatous. Hymenium hemiamyloid, I+ yellow-red, KI+ blue, not inspersed, highly coherent. Asci cylindrical, 8-spored, with a thin, KI+ blue outer wall, a thickened, essentially non-amyloid tholus and with the ocular chamber absent or poorly developed and narrowly conical. Paraphyses simple or sparsely branched, with apices sometimes expanded. Ascospores fusiform to narrowly ellipsoid, 0–1(–3)-septate (mostly asymmetrically), hyaline, non-halonate, thin-walled. Conidiomata occurring in apothecial primordia. Conidia bacilliform. Chemistry: nil.

A monotypic genus, known from high rainfall areas of Tasmania and also recorded from New Zealand. It belongs in the small family Arctomiaceae together with the alpine-bipolar genus *Arctomia* (c. 10 species) and the monotypic, temperate European genus *Gregorella*; neither of these occurs in Tasmania.

Key References: Henssen & Kantvilas (1985); Lumbsch *et al.* (2005).

1 *Wawea fruticulosa* Henssen & Kantvilas

Lichenologist 17: 86 (1985). Type: Tasmania, Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, Pencil Pine Creek at northern entrance of park, on burnt trunk of *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, 758 m, 22 February 1968, W.A. Weber & D. McVean (holo—COLO; iso—HO!, also distributed as *Ramalodium succulentum* Nyl. in *Lichenes Exsicc. Colo.* no. 452).

Thallus bluish grey to olive-brown or blackened, forming extensively spreading cushions or mats 0.5–1 mm high composed of erect or ascending, ± dichotomously branched, longitudinally wrinkled and often rather gnarled lobes 0.1–0.3 mm wide. Apothecia to 2.3 mm wide; disc red-brown to dark brown to blackish; proper exciple in section pale yellow-brown to red-brown, 30–70 µm thick. Hypothecium (25–)45–70 µm thick, hyaline to pale yellow-brown. Hymenium hyaline to pale yellow-brown to red-brown, especially in the upper part, (70–)100–150 µm thick; paraphyses 2–2.5 µm thick, with apices often expanded to 3–5 µm wide; asci 80–140 × 10–13 µm. Ascospores (15–)17–19.9–24(–25) × 5–6.4–8(–9) µm. Conidia (1.5–)2–4 × 1 µm.

Very common and widespread in wetter areas, ranging from lowland to alpine elevations, this species has a wide ecological amplitude. It is most frequently found on the soft, moist, spongy bark of species of *Melaleuca* and *Leptospermum* in wet scrub and forest, especially in implicate rainforest. It also occurs on inorganic or peaty soil in heathland and woodland at higher elevations, as well as on the buttresses of *Euca-*

1 This work can be cited as: Kantvilas G (2023). *Wawea*, version 2023:1. 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/wawea/>

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3 Tasmanian Herbarium, Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery, PO Box 5058, UTAS LPO, Sandy Bay, TAS 7005, Australia.

lyptus subcrenulata and *E. gunnii* in subalpine bogs and at wet forest margins. The swards of dark, contorted, entangled lobes, with apothecia nestled amongst them, make *Wawea* unmistakable.

Mt Wellington summit peak, 147°14' 42°54'S, 1963, *P.W. James* (BM, HO); Lake Fenton, 42°40'S 146°36'E, 1000 m, 1981, *A. Henssen 27596* & *G. Kantvilas* (H, HO); Mayfield Flats, upper Mersey River, 41°55'S 146°12'E, 970 m, 2012, *G. Kantvilas 631/12* (HO).

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Lumbsch HT, del Prado R, Kantvilas G (2005) *Gregorella*, a new genus to accommodate *Moelleropsis humida* and a molecular phylogeny of Arctomiaceae. *Lichenologist* **37** 291–302.

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