

CATAPYRENIUM

O. Breuss

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Catapyrenium Flot., *Bot. Zeitung* 8: 361 (1850); from the Greek *kata* (down) and *pyren* (a nucleus), in reference to the immersed perithecia.

Type: *C. cinereum* (Pers.) Körb.

Thallus squamose. Squamae scattered, contiguous or imbricate, loosely or closely attached, rounded, lobed or finely incised, corticate above, with or without a lower cortex, anchored by a mat of rhizohyphae (also with rhizines in one species). Upper cortex thin, 10–30 µm thick, poorly delimited from the algal layer, comprising small (5–8 µm diam.) roundish angular cells. Perithecia immersed in the squamae, broadly pyriform to subglobose, to 0.3 mm diam., without an involucrellum. Asci clavate, 8-spored. Ascospores biseriate, simple, colourless. Pycnidia absent.

A recent revision of *Catapyrenium* (Breuss, 1996) resulted in the exclusion of most species formerly included in the genus. Six species remain, with only one in Australia. Most occur on soil and humus in semi-arid and arid regions or in alpine habitats; one species also grows on bark.

O. Breuss, Die Flechtengattung *Catapyrenium* (Verrucariaceae) in Europa, *Stappia* 23: 1–174 (1990);

O. Breuss, Ein verfeinertes Gliederungskonzept für *Catapyrenium* (lichenisierte Ascomyceten, Verrucariaceae), *Ann. Naturhist. Mus. Wien* 98B, Suppl.: 35–50 (1996).