MYELOCONIDACEAE

P.M.McCarthy

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Myeloconidaceae P.M.McCarthy, *Fl. Australia* 58A: 227 (2001), as Myeloconaceae.

Type: *Myeloconis* P.M.McCarthy & Elix

Thallus crustose, epiphloeodal, thinly corticate or ecorticate. Algae *Trentepohlia*-like. Medulla yellow, yellow-orange or orange. Ascomata perithecia, solitary, without an involucrellum, immersed in the thallus or in prominent thalline verrucae; ostiole apical; exciple enclosed within a dense dark brown wall of periclinal cells. Hamathecium of long-celled filaments growing from the subhymenium and from the exciple almost to the ostiole, sparingly to richly anastomosing only near their bases, simple to very sparingly branched above, not interspersed with granules or oil globules. Periphyses absent. Asci unitunicate, uniformly thin-walled, 8-spored, non-amyloid, lacking apical apparatus and apical refractive ring. Ascospores euseptate, muriform, elongate, fusiform-cylindrical or tapering to a ±fine point at the proximal or at both ends, colourless. Conidiomata not seen.

Chemistry: Medullary xanthones, with or without accessory terpenes. Yellow, yellow-orange or orange crystalline pigments are clearly visible in the medulla, and they may erupt through cracks in the thallus surface.

The position of this monotypic pantropical family in Order Trichotheliales is confirmed by the occurrence of a trentepohlioid photobiont, perithecioid ascomata, a largely unbranched hamathecium of paraphyses and thin-walled unitunicate asci. It is distinguished from the Trichotheliaceae by its thalline chemistry, the absence of an involucrellum and by the presence of a deeply pigmented wall of periclinal cells external to the exciple.

MYELOCONIS

Myeloconis P.M.McCarthy & Elix, *Lichenologist* 28: 402 (1996); from the Greek *myelos* (marrow, pith) and *konis* (dust), in reference to the medulla laden with powdery yellow or orange pigments.

Type: *M. fecunda* P.M.McCarthy & Elix

A genus of four tropical corticolous species; one species occurs in north-eastern Australia.

P.M.McCarthy & J.A.Elix, *Myeloconis*, a new genus of pyrenocarpous lichens from the tropics, *Lichenologist* 28: 401–414 (1996).