

## RELICINOPSIS

*John A. Elix*

[From *Flora of Australia* volume 55 (1994)]

*Relicinopsis* Elix & Verdon, *Mycotaxon* 27: 281 (1986); from the Greek *opsis* (appearance, resemblance), in reference to the genus *Relicina*.

Type: *R. intertexta* (Mont. & Bosch) Elix & Verdon

Thallus foliose, adnate to tightly adnate, to 1.5–10 cm wide. Lobes contiguous at centre, contiguous to separate at periphery, irregular or sublinear to linear-elongate, dichotomously to subirregularly branched, 0.5–2 (–3) mm wide; margins eciliate or with simple cilia. Upper surface yellow-green (usnic acid), smooth, maculate or not, lacking pseudocyphellae and soredia, with or without isidia; upper cortex consisting of basic palisade plectenchyma with pored epicortex. Cell walls containing isolichenan. Medulla loosely packed, white. Lower surface pale tan to brown; rhizines extending to lobe margins, moderately dense to dense, simple or sparsely branched and agglutinated, usually concolorous. Ascomata apothecial, laminal, sessile; disc ±flat to concave, imperforate, pale brown to red-brown or cinnamon-brown. Ascospores ellipsoidal, 8 per ascus, 5–9 × 3–6 µm. Conidiomata pycnidial, marginal, rarely laminal, sometimes emergent. Conidia bacilliform or fusiform, 5–7 × 1 µm.

The lichen genus *Relicinopsis* Elix & Verdon, a segregate of *Parmelia* Ach. *s. lat.*, was formerly included in *Pseudoparmelia* Lyngby (Hale, 1976). However, it became increasingly obvious that *Pseudoparmelia* was an heterogeneous assemblage of species (Hale 1974, 1976) and a new circumscription of *Pseudoparmelia s. str.* (Hale 1986) excluded the majority of species formerly accommodated in this genus. Subsequently, these species were divided into four segregate genera (one of which was *Relicinopsis*) on the basis of morphological, distributional, ecological, cortical and chemical characters (Elix, Johnston & Verdon, 1986). At that time, three species of *Relicinopsis* were known to occur in Australia and a further species has been recognised since. These species are restricted to the bark of trunks and canopy branches of tropical mangroves and trees in coastal and hinterland rainforests of Qld, and to a lesser extent in the N.T. They also occur occasionally on rock in these regions.

M.E.Hale, New Combinations in the Lichen Genus *Pseudoparmelia* Lyngby, *Phytologia* 29: 188–191 (1974); M.E.Hale, A monograph of the Lichen Genus *Pseudoparmelia* Lyngby (Parmeliaceae), *Smithsonian Contr. Bot.* 31: 1–62 (1976); M.E.Hale, *Flavoparmelia*, a new Genus in the Lichen Family Parmeliaceae (Ascomycotina), *Mycotaxon* 25: 603–605 (1986); J.A.Elix, J.Johnston & D.Verdon, *Canoparmelia*, *Paraparmelia* and *Relicinopsis*, three new genera in the Parmeliaceae (lichenized Ascomycotina), *Mycotaxon* 27: 271–282 (1986); J.A.Elix & J.Johnston, New Species in the lichen family Parmeliaceae (Ascomycotina) from the Southern Hemisphere, *Mycotaxon* 31: 491–510 (1988).

- |    |  |                       |
|----|--|-----------------------|
| 1  | Thallus isidiate .....   | 2                     |
| 1: | Thallus lacking isidia .....   | 3                     |
| 2  | Medulla P+ orange-red, containing protocetraric acid ( <i>I</i> ) .....  | <b>R. malaccensis</b> |
| 2: | Medulla P- or P+ pale orange, containing barbatic acid, with or without echinocarpic acid .....                  | <b>R. rahengensis</b> |
| 3  | Lobes contiguous throughout; medulla P-, containing barbatic acid, protocetraric acid absent ( <i>I</i> :) ..... | <b>R. stevensiae</b>  |
| 3: | Lobes separate at periphery; medulla P+ orange-red, containing protocetraric acid .....                          | <b>R. intertexta</b>  |