



PSEUDEPHEBE ¹

Gintaras Kantvilas ²

Pseudephebe M.Choisy, *Icon. Lich. Univ.*, ser. 2, fasc. 1 (unpaginated) (1930).

Type: *P. pubescens* (L.) M.Choisy

Thallus fruticose, prostrate, mostly dark brown to blackish, erhizinate, attached to the substratum by scattered, disc-like hapters; branches terete or unevenly dorsiventrally flattened, lacking cilia, maculae, pseudocyphellae, soredia and isidia; cortex N-, composed of short, periclinal hyphae; medulla lax, lacking a chondroid axis. Photobiont trebouxiod. Ascomata apothecia, lecanorine, lateral; proper exciple cupulate; thalline exciple often becoming excluded. Asci 8-spored, of the *Lecanora*-type: broadly clavate, with a well-developed, amyloid tholus, pierced entirely by a non-amyloid *masse axiale* with \pm parallel flanks; ocular chamber poorly developed. Paraphyses rather stout, straight, sparsely branched; apices not expanded. Ascospores simple, hyaline, broadly ellipsoid. Conidiomata pycnidia, laminal, immersed; conidia bacilliform. Chemistry: nil.

A bipolar genus comprising two species, widely distributed on rocks in cold, montane or polar environments. One species occurs in Tasmania.

Key references: Brodo & Hawksworth (1977); Kantvilas (1994); Kantvilas *et al.* (2002).

1 *Pseudephebe pubescens* (L.) M.Choisy

Icon. Lich. Univ., ser. 2, fasc. 1 (unpaginated) (1930); —*Lichen pubescens* L., *Sp. Pl.* 2: 1155 (1753); *Alectoria pubescens* (L.) R.Howe, *Classif. Usneac. Amer.*: 23 (1912).

Thallus dark olive-brown to blackish, glossy, paler in shaded parts, forming straggling, wiry, tightly adnate mats to 10 mm high and 120 mm across; branches terete (often rather unevenly so), much-branched and entangled, to c. 0.4 mm thick. Apothecia unknown in Tasmania, reported as to 5.5 mm wide, with ascospores 7–12 \times 6–8 μ m (Brodo & Hawksworth 1977).

A bipolar species with a widespread Tasmanian distribution. Virtually all collections are from dolerite peaks, but this is more likely a reflection of the generally higher elevation and greater availability of habitat on these mountains, rather than a preference for a particular rock type. *Pseudephebe pubescens* forms wiry mats and tufts on the apices of large, exposed, alpine boulders, where it is usually part of a diverse lichen association that includes *Notoparmelia signifera*, *Usnea torulosa*, *Xanthoparmelia stygiodes* and species of *Umbilicaria*. It is very distinctive and unlikely to be mistaken for other lichens. Blackened species of *Usnea* and *Neuropogon*, which can occur in the same habitats, are inevitably more robust, retain some hint of yellow coloration and have a central chondroid axis. Although there is a superficial resemblance to the genus *Ephebe*, that lichen has finer branches, occurs in semi-aquatic or very wet habitats, and contains a cyanobacterial photobiont.

1 This work can be cited as: Kantvilas G (2023). *Pseudephebe*, 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/pseudephebe/> (accessed 30 September 2022).

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

Mt Wellington, 1963, *P.W. James s.n.* (BM, HO); Sandbanks Tier, 41°50'S 146°51'E, 1969, *G.C. Bratt 69/206* (HO); western flanks of Legges Tor, 41°32'S 147°39'E, 1530 m, 1998, *G. Kantvilas 107/98* (HO).

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- Kantvilas G, Elix JA, Jarman SJ (2002) *Tasmanian Lichens. Identification, Distribution and Conservation Status. I. Parmeliaceae*. *Flora of Australia Supplementary Series no. 15*. (Australian Biological Resources Study: Canberra and Tasmanian Herbarium: Hobart)

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