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Cryptogam of the Month-April 2010

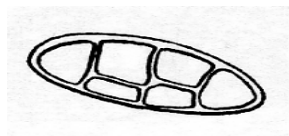


Endocarpon simplicatum var. *simplicatum*

Endocarpon simplicatum var. *simplicatum* is a squamulose lichen species that occurs on clay soils in semi arid areas. The squamules (thallus) are large, up to 10 mm in size, usually brown to almost brown black and can be seen scattered in an area or as a single thalli. The upper surface is usually flat but occasionally appears concave. The fruiting bodies show up as dark spots on the surface of the thallus and are in fact a sunken perithecia, which has an indistinct surface ostiole or pore. The spores are of the muriform type and appear to be only one spored in this species.

This species is reasonably common in the drier regions of southern Australia. In Western Australia this species can be found through out the wheat-belt and into the goldfields. Collections have been made near salt affected area but most are in patches where moisture pools.

It is closely related to *Endocarpon helmsianum* but differs in the large solitary ascospores.



muriform ascospore