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Cryptogam of the Month-December 2009



Cladia schizopora

Cladia schizopora is an unusual fruticose member of this genus in most cases it is only seen as a green to yellow green powder on bark of trees. The fruiting bodies develop into small erect pseudopodetia, topped with dark brown-black clustered berry like apothecia. The pseudopodetia are hollow and branched, usually only 2-3 mm high, although it has been recorded to be 15 mm tall outside of WA.

This species occurs in the wetter areas of WA and occasionally found near Perth where it is reduced in size and is located in bark fissures or sheltering in protected locations. Samples have occasionally been located on sheltered laterite rocks. The rock surface usually has a layer of organic material trapped in the rough surface but is not common for this species to occur in this situation.

This species is found in southern WA, eastern and south-eastern Australia, NZ and Chile.