

A REMARKABLE LICHEN FROM ARID AUSTRALIA

by

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PARMELIA SEMIVIRIDIS (F. Muell. ex Nyl.) P. Bibby, *combinatio nova*.

Scyphophorus (?) R. Brown. No. 525b:

Parmeliopsis semiviridis F. Muell. ex Nyl. *Syn. Meth. Lich.* 2: 57 (1863);

Chondropsis semiviridis Nyl., in Cromb. *J. Linn. Soc.* 17: 397 (1879);

Parmelia hypoxantha Müll.-Arg., *Flora* 39: 85 (1881);

Parmelia hypoxantha Müll.-Arg., var. *major* Müll.-Arg., *Flora* 66: 77 (1883).

Thallus 2–6 cm. in diameter, hygrophasic, growing on arid soil, loose and easily blown about by the wind, lobes 2–3 mm. broad, repeatedly dichotomously branched, hardly imbricate; upper surface smooth, greyish-green, lower surface pale-yellow, devoid of rhizinæ, slightly rugose; apothecium rare, sessile 2 mm., disk concave, reddish-brown; ascus and spores wanting. K, reddish, C, none, K+C, none.

Localities: VICTORIA (north-west)—Murray River, F. Mueller (TYPE in MEL); Hattah Lakes, J. H. Willis; Pink Lakes near Walpeup, P. Bibby; Kulkyne National Forest, C. Beaglehole; Thurla, J. H. Willis. (?) TASMANIA—Mt. Wellington (Table Mt.), R. Brown. SOUTH AUSTRALIA—Mueller river, Birch; Koonamore Vegetation Reserve, B. S. Barrien; Colona homestead, J. H. Willis; Nullarbor homestead, J. H. Willis; Loveday, E. J. Vickery. WESTERN AUSTRALIA—Fraser's range, R. Helms, Nos. 43 and 73; Eucla, J. Batt.

I have previously referred to R. Brown's specimens purporting to have come from Mt. Wellington [see *Victorian Naturalist* 67: 186 (1951)]. Photostat copies of the types of J. Müller's *Parmelia hypoxantha* and *Parmelia hypoxantha*, var. *major*, prove them to be identical with the type of *Parmelia semiviridis*, and I can see no reason to segregate the var. *major*.

Parmelia hypoxantha Stirt. [*Qd. agric. J.* 5: 486 (1899) and *Trans. & Proc. N.Z. Inst.* 32: 76 (1900)] from Queensland is a different plant, the name of which is invalid, since J. Müller (Müll.-Arg.—of Argovie) published his species 18 years before Stirton.

† While this paper was in press, the author died on 6th June, 1955, after a long illness. He was the only one in Australia carrying out critical taxonomic researches on lichens and hepatics, and his loss will be felt keenly at the Melbourne National Herbarium where he joined the professional staff in 1938.

—J.H.W.