

***Sclerococcum stygium* (Berk. & M.A. Curtis) Olariaga, Teres, J.M. Martín, M. Prieto & Baral [syn. *Dactylospora stygia* (Berk. & M.A. Curtis) Hafellner – for other synonyms see Index Fungorum]**

AEB 982 (= PDD 92324) – a good fit

Substrate: moist, old, decaying decorticated wood

Collection site: Remutaka Forest Park (Wainuiomata nearest town) about 30 minutes walk from the car park along the Orongorongo Valley track.

Collection date: 4 January 2007

Collector and identifier: Dan Mahoney

Voucher material: dried herbarium material [AEB 982 (= PDD 92324)] accompanied by two Shear's mounting fluid (SMF) semi-permanent slides; Dan's photos of in-situ apothecioid ascomata and his compound scope views of microscopic detail; Dan's comments and brief description of AEB 982 ascospores.

Comments: For morphological descriptions and illustrations of *Sclerococcum stygium* (as *Dactylospora stygia*), see the following online:

1) Hosoya T. 2005. Enumeration of remarkable Japanese Discomycetes (2): Two Inoperculate Discomycetes rarely known in Japan. Bull. Natn. Sci. Mus., Tokyo, Ser. B, 31(2): 49–55.

2) [**Dactylospora stygia - Fungi of Great Britain and Ireland**](#)

<https://fungi.myspecies.info › all-fungi › dactylospora-s...>

[Paul Cannon's description based partly on Hosoya (2005)]

The pdf I prepared for another collection of *S. stygium*, PDD 117259 (= AEB 1342), includes the descriptive/illustrative detail from the above. The descriptions provided there fit the apothecioid ascomata, asci and paraphyses for AEB 982, but ascospores vary somewhat. However, I believe these variations are acceptable within *S. stygium*.

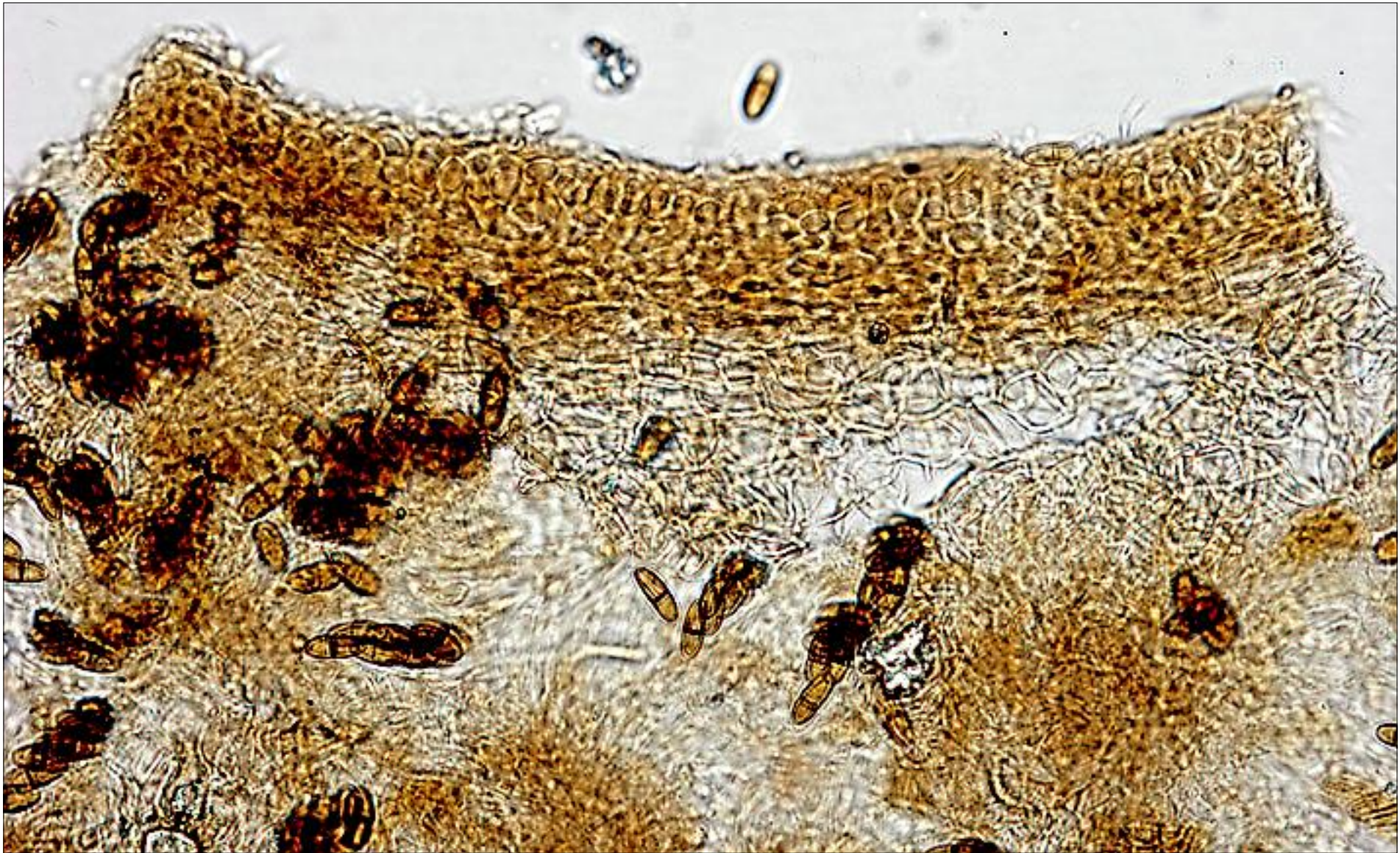
Brief description of AEB 982 ascospores: Ascospores for the present collection are (12–)13–15(–16) × 5–6(–7) µm, n=50; brown to light brown; ellipsoid to clavate (often the latter); 2-celled with the septum near the mid-point or more often below the mid-point with the upper cell larger and apically more broadly rounded than the lower cell; longitudinally striate; a large guttule often visible in each cell.

Comparative ascospore description for AEB 1342: Ascospores (12–)15–18(–20) × 4.5–5 µm, n=50; brown to light brown; narrow ellipsoid-fusoid, (symmetrical to plano-convex or slightly curving); 2-celled with a near-median non-indented septum, one cell sometimes slightly larger; longitudinally striate; often 2 guttules/cell.



AEB 982. In-situ mature, fresh apothecioid-ascomata on moist, old, decaying decorticated wood.

← 400 μm →



AEB 982. Ectal excipulum in a SMF mount using the X40 objective and brightfield microscopy. Hosoya (2005) describes his thinner more highly magnified ectal excipulum as “textura prismatica to textura angularis, composed of rectangular cells with brown walls; radiating toward the surface in dichotomous manner, cells arranged almost perpendicular to the external surface, ending up in cells with a rounded apex.”



AEB 982. Fertile asci in a SMF mount using the X100 objective and brightfield microscopy. Here the ascus walls are indistinct but the ascospore arrangements are obvious as are the spore colors, shapes, septations, size differences in each 2-celled spore and most importantly the spore longitudinal striations.