

PHYSCONIA Poelt

7 species recorded in Alberta

detersa (Nyl.) Poelt Syn.: *Physcia detersa* ACIMS, ABMI

enteroxantha (Nyl.) Poelt ACIMS

grumosa Kashiw. & Poelt (Esslinger & Dillman 2010) Confirmed by Ted Esslinger, not yet in ACIMS

isidiigera (Zahlbr.) Essl. ACIMS

labrata Esslinger, McCune & Haughland AB (Type from near Hinton)

muscigena (Ach.) Poelt Syn.: *Physcia muscigena* ACIMS, ABMI

perisidiosa (Erichsen) Moberg ACIMS, ABMI

DICHOTOMOUS KEY – *Physconia*

Slightly modified from Esslinger 2002 and Esslinger 2007, with minor input from Brodo et al. 2001, McCune and Geiser 2009, Goward et al. 1994. Key features for identification to GENUS: thallus green-grey to brown; lobes appressed or suberect, moderate sized; almost always light to heavily pruinose; isidiate, sorediate, apotheciate; lower surface usually black, occasionally pale near lobe tips; rhizines abundant and densely squarrose; cortex chemical reactions all (-); medulla occasionally KY or CPink. **See also *Phaeophyscia*, *Anaptychia*, *Heterodermia*, and *Physcia***

1a. Upper cortex appearing fibrous (i.e., 'combed' or striate longitudinally) **See *Anaptychia* & *Heterodermia***

1b. Upper cortex matte, cortical hyphae isodiametric and unpatterned **2 - *Physconia***

2a. Thallus without isidia or soredia, sometimes becoming lobulate, often with apothecia; **on ground or moss** (rarely **on rock**), usually divided into irregular lobes and lobules which tend to be concave and ascending, sometimes strongly so and then turf-forming ***P. muscigena***

2b. Thallus with either isidia, soredia or isidioid soredia; may or may not have apothecia **3**

3a. Thallus with isidia, isidioid soredia, or lobules, or more commonly, all three, mostly marginal but also sparsely laminal; isidia becoming branched and coralloid; mostly **on bark and wood**, occasionally **on rock** ***P. grumosa***

3b. Thallus with soredia or isidioid soredia, no true isidia **4**

4a. Soredia mostly in labriform terminal soralia on the ends of lobes **5**

5a. Form ranges from rosettes to scattered lobes; lower surface typically pale or white near lobe ends and ecorticate; medullary hyphae visible on lower surface darkening to form fine brown/black striations near lobe tips and a dark, dull lower cortex forming towards the thallus centre; **on bark or rock** ***P. perisidiosa***

5b. Forming rosettes; lower surface abruptly darkening with intact cortex past soralia, medullary hyphae not visible; on coniferous bark ***P. labrata***

4b. Soredia marginal, laminal in older parts of thallus; lower surface dark brown to black centrally, the peripheral lobes often lighter but with a well-developed cortex on lower surface to lobe tips; **on bark, wood or rock** **6**

6a. Medulla & soralia K-, KC-, soralia marginal and linear; medulla white or off-white **7**

7a. Upper cortex with thin-walled cells ***P. isidiigera***

7b. Upper cortex with thick-walled cells and shiny; Rocky Mountains ***P. detersa***

6b. Medulla usually very pale to medium yellow, occasionally white, K+Y and KC+Y-O (secalonic acid; reactions may be pale in specimens with white medulla); soralia marginal and linear to weakly reflexed, usually K+Y and KC+Y like the medulla; upper cortex dull (paraplectenchymatous) ***P. enteroxantha***