Pertusaria parathalassica Kantvilas & Elix, *Sauteria* 15: 258 (2008)

T: Coal Pt, Bruny Is., Tas., 43°20'S, 147°19'E, alt. 1 m, on sandstone rocks within the spray zone, 14 June 2005, *G.Kantvilas 145/05*; holo: HO; iso: CANB.

Illustration: G.Kantvilas & J.A.Elix, *op. cit.* 259, fig. 4.

Thallus whitish to pale dull grey, deeply cracked and areolate, 0.4–1.5 (–2.0) mm thick, very hard, brittle, lacking isidia and soredia, ecorticate. Apothecia disciform, 0.8–1.5 (–2.5) mm wide, single or with 2 or 3 fused, usually rather deformed and squashed; hymenia at first deeply immersed within the verrucae and obscured by a thick sterile 'plug' of thalline tissue, at length exposed and revealing an orange-brown to greyish disc, soon becoming abraded, eroded and excavate. Asci 1-spored, elongate-oblong, soon rupturing. Ascospores oblong-ellipsoidal, hyaline, 164–281 × 51–109 μm; wall 3–4 μm thick, internally smooth.

Chemistry: Thallus K–, KC–, C–, Pd+ red, UV–; containing protocetraric acid.

A locally common saxicolous species on southern coasts of Tas.; endemic.

Tas.: Roaring Bay, *G.C.Bratt 68/529 & J.A.Cashin* (HO); channel between Penguin Is. and Grass Pt, Bruny Is., *G.Kantvilas 115/04* (HO); Cape Hauy, *G.Kantvilas 420/01* (HO).

The lichen is characterised by large, disciform apothecia, single-spored asci, exceptionally large ascospores and the presence of protocetraric acid. It is distinguished from the chemically similar saxicolous species *P. macloviana* Müll.Arg., recorded from southern South America and the Falkland Islands, by the smaller ascospores in the latter (147–187 × 49–74 μm) and the disciform apothecia that become coarsely sorediate.