

STEINIA

Gintaras Kantvilas

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Steinia Körb., in B.Stein, *Jahresber. Schles. Ges. Vaterl. Kult.* 50: 169 (1873); named after the German lichenologist Berthold Stein (1847–99).

Type: *S. geophana* (Nyl.) B.Stein

Thallus ±gelatinous, effuse and inconspicuous, or ±leprose. Apothecia black to brown-black, strongly convex. Hymenium heavily gelatinised, with the gel I+ blue without pretreatment in KOH. Paraphyses simple, embedded in a gelatinous matrix, typically shorter than the asci, indistinctly septate; apices not expanded. Asci of the *Aphanopsis*-type, 16-spored, with a non-amyloid wall and a tholus with an amyloid plug or cap. Ascospores globose or slightly distorted-ellipsoidal. Pycnidia black. Conidia simple, ellipsoidal, colourless.

Chemistry: No substances detectable by TLC.

A genus of two species occurring on moist, disturbed soil, rotting wood and, in the Northern Hemisphere, on a range of other, often man-made, substrata. The 16-spored, *Aphanopsis*-type asci are diagnostic. Pycnidia have not been observed in any Australian specimens, and their description (above) is based on that of Purvis (1992).

O.W.Purvis, *Steinia* Körber (1873), in O.W.Purvis, B.J.Coppins, D.L.Hawksworth, P.W. James & D.M.Moore (eds), *The Lichen Flora of Great Britain and Ireland* 575–576 (1992); G.Kantvilas & P.M.McCarthy, *Steinia australis*, a new species in the lichen family Aphanopsidaceae, *Lichenologist* 31: 555–558 (1999).

Thallus ±leprose, greenish; ascospores $8-12 \times 7-11 \mu\text{m}$ **S. australis**
Thallus effuse, ±gelatinous; ascospores $5-8 \times 5-7 \mu\text{m}$ **S. geophana**