

MILTIDEA

Gintaras Kantvilas

[From *Flora of Australia* volume 56A (2004)]

Miltidea Stirt., *Trans. & Proc. New Zealand Inst.* 30: 385 (1898), from the Greek *μῖλτος* (painted red), referring to the red-pigmented apothecia.

Type: *Lecidea rubricatula* Stirt. [= *Miltidea ceroplasta* (C.Bab.) D.J.Galloway & Hafellner]

Characters as for the family. The ontogeny of the genus was discussed in detail by Lumbsch (1997).

Stirton's original concept of the genus included species from a range of what are now regarded as unrelated genera; for example, in the Australian flora, taxa now included in *Biatorella*, *Pyrrhospora* and *Letrouitia*. In his description (Stirton, 1898), he dealt at length with the structure of the excipulum, noting the straight, radiating hyphae, and he saw *Miltidea* as a 'natural' group encompassing crustose lichens with several different spore types including septate, simple and muriform. This was quite an unusual notion given the strictly spore-based concepts that prevailed then and until relatively recent times. The genus was never taken up formally until Hafellner (1984) reviewed many of the taxa that had for decades been included in the heterogeneous grouping '*Lecidea*'.

J.Stirton, On new Australian and New Zealand lichens, *Trans. & Proc. New Zealand Inst.* 30: 382–393 (1898); D.J.Galloway, *Fl. New Zealand Lichens* 226 (as *Lecidea*) (1985); G.Kantvilas & P.W.James, Records of crustose lichens from Tasmanian rainforests, *Mycotaxon* 41: 271–286 (1991).