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[Aridoplaca](#) Wilk, Pabijan & Lücking.

A saxicolous monotypic lichenized genus [Aridoplaca](#) was introduced by Wilk & Lücking (2021) to accommodate [Aridoplaca peltata](#). This genus was reported from Bolivia and Peru. The genus formed a distinct clade in the phylogenetic analyses conducted based on molecular analysis with ITS, SSU, and LSU sequence data. The genus belongs to the subfamily *Teloschistoideae* and shares similar morphological characteristics to *Xanthopeltis rupicola* in minutely umbilicate to peltate thallus that was nested within Xanthorioideae (Arup et al. 2013, Wilk et al. 2021). However, [Aridoplaca](#) differs from *Xanthopeltis rupicola* in having a smaller thallus, peltate squamules forming small rosettes, and polarilocular, straight, ellipsoid ascospores (Wilk et al. 2021). The species with similar epithet *Caloplaca peltata* also shares similar thallus morphology to [Aridoplaca](#) but differs in the presence of pruinose, flat to slightly concave squamules with slightly upturned margins, sessile apothecia which usually solitary on the single squamules (Räsänen 1938, Kondratyuk et al. 2004). The sexual morph of the genus is characterized by saxicolous, squamulose-peltate, orange-red thallus, abundant, crowded, erumpent apothecia with the red disk, thalline cortex, parathecium, paraplectenchymatous hypothecium, polarilocular, ellipsoid and medium-sized ascospores with medium thick septa. The asexual morph produces pycnidia that are abundant and completely immersed (Wilk et al. 2021). The taxonomic placement of [Aridoplaca](#) is in *Teloschistaceae*, *Teloschistales*, *Lecanoromycetidae*, *Lecanoromycetes*, *Pezizomycotina* and *Ascomycota*.

References

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