

## PROFILES OF FUNGI

**74: PHELLINUS UMBRINELLUS** (Bres.) S. Herrera & Bondartseva apud Bondartseva & S. Herrera in Mikol. Fitopatol. 14:8 (1980).

*Poria umbrinella* Bres. in Hedwigia 35:282 (1896).  
*Fomitiporella umbrinella* (Bres.) Murr. in N. Amer. Fl. 9: 13 (1907).

*Fuscoporia umbrinella* (Bres.) Cunn. in N.Z. Dept. Sci. Ind. Res. Bull 164:217 (1965).

**Habitat:** both European records on British Fagaceae i.e. *Quercus* and *Fagus* (see photo.)

**Distribution:** South-east England; also on numerous hardwoods in subtropical-tropical regions (Ryvarden & Gilbertson, 1994), (Photo: Berkshire, Windsor Great Park, South Forest, on stump and fallen trunk of *Fagus sylvatica*, 1 Apr. 1995, Ainsworth W519).

**Basidioma** perennial, resupinate and effused, yellowish brown becoming darker, ligneous. **Hymenophore** tubulate, stratified (more than 10 layers); pores 4 - 6 per mm. **Context** a thin, dark red-brown subiculum. **Hyphal system** dimitic; **generative hyphae** 1.5 - 3.0 µm, hyaline, thin-walled, septate but lacking clamp-connexions; **skeletal hyphae** 2.5 - 6.0 µm diam., brown, thick

walled, non-septate. **Basidiospores** abundant, 4.5 - 5.5 x 3.5 - 4.5 µm (3.6 - 4.32 x 2.88 - 3.6 µm acc. Loguercio-Leite & Wright), ovoid to broadly ellipsoid, reddish brown, thick-walled, smooth. **Basidia** 9 - 14 x 4 - 6 µm, broadly clavate, 4-spored. **Setae** absent. **Type of rot:** white rot of deciduous trees.

Hymenochaetales - Hymenochaetaceae - *Phellinus* Quél.

**Other remarks:** Other resupinate, hardwood species, such as *P. ferreus* (Pers.) Bourdot & Galzin and *P. ferrugineus* (Schrad.:Fr.) Bourdot & Galzin, have a lighter coloured basidioma, hyaline, ellipsoid to cylindrical spores, and haplosetae. In addition, *P. ferrugineus* has macrosetae on the tube-trama. Generally regarded as pantropical, described from Brazil. Lowe (1966) and Larsen & Cobb-Poulsen (1990) list *Fuscoporella coruscans* Murr., *F. mexicana* Murr. *F. floridana* Murr. and *Poria torrendii* Bres. as synonyms. Second British record found in dry conditions; unusually dark basidiomata on inside of hollow trunk of host coated with brown spore deposit. Both British sites close to ancient woodland thus the possibility that *P. umbrinellus* may have had a former wider distribution but now confined to diminishing ancient woodlands.



### References

- Gilbertson, R.L. & Ryvarden, L. (1987) N. Amer. Polyp. 2: 614 - 615, fig. 315; Herrera Figeroa, S & Bondartseva, M.A. (1982) Acta Bot. Cuba 8: 2 - 5, fig. 1; Larsen, M.J. & Cobb-Poulsen, L.A. (1990) Synops. Fung. 3: 144; Loguercio-Leite, C. & Wright, J.E. (1995) Mycotaxon 54:379 - 381; Lowe, J.L. (1966) Polyp. N. Amer., Poria 144, fig. 129; Ryvarden, L. (1994) Mycologist 8: 6; Ryvarden, L. & Gilbertson, R.L. (1994) Europ. Polyp. 2: 527 - 528, fig. 274.

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**75: CALOSCYPHA FULGENS** (Pers.: Fr.) Boud., Icon. Mycol., Liste prélim.: 3 (1904).

*Peziza fulgens* Pers., Myc. Eur. 1: 241 (1822); Fr., Syst. Mycol. 2: 67 (1823).

*Otidella fulgens* (Pers.: Fr.) Sacc., Syll. Fung. 8: 99 (1889).

**Habitat:** on soil, amongst moss and litter in spring; in Europe and North America mostly occurring under melting snow in association with conifers, and said to be mycorrhizal with *Abies* (Breitenbach & Kränzlin, 1984). Known to be a seed pathogen of conifers in Canada and North America. In Britain collected mostly with decid-



uous trees including *Fraxinus* and *Betula*. *Distribution*: Europe, North America, Japan. (Photo: Berks., nr. Ascot, woodland trackway, 11 Mar. 1994, A.M. Ainsworth).

*Apothecia* cupulate, sessile, solitary or in small clusters, 10 - 25 mm diam. in British material, to 4 cm diam. elsewhere. *Disc* concave, deep yellow to orange. *Receptacle* smooth, yellowish, becoming dark greenish or bluish where bruised, and with age. *Ectal excipulum* 80 - 100  $\mu$ m thick, a *textura angularis*, composed of irregular, angular, thin-walled, hyaline cells mostly 20 - 30  $\mu$ m diam. *Medullary excipulum* a *textura intricata*, of loosely interwoven, hyaline, thin-walled, septate hyphae 7 - 11  $\mu$ m diam. *Asci* 150 - 165 x 8.5 - 10  $\mu$ m, operculate, cylindric, tapered below to a long stalk, non-amyloid, 8-spored. *Ascospores* globose, 5.5 - 7  $\mu$ m diam., hyaline, smooth, irregularly arranged in the ascus when young, uniseriate at maturity. *Paraphyses* filiform, simple or often branched in the lower part, sometimes slightly flexuous near the apex, 2.5 - 3.5  $\mu$ m diam.

Pezizales - Otideaceae - *Caloscypha* Boud.

*Other remarks*: The species is widespread, and evidently frequent in parts of North America and Europe. It is perhaps most common in montane regions of central Europe, where the apothecia are often gathered for food (Dennis, 1969, 1978; Rahm, 1947). It is rare in Britain, and perhaps introduced. It was first collected in Suffolk



in March 1968 by R.E. Evans (Dennis, 1969), amongst leaf litter under *Betula* and *Quercus*, and subsequently from Norfolk under *Fraxinus* in 1985. A more recent collection from Berkshire in March 1994 by A.M. Ainsworth, E.E. Green & A. Lucas was from under *Betula*, *Salix* and *Pinus*. *Geniculodendron pyriforme* Salt, a seed pathogen of *Picea* and *Pinus* in Canada and North America, has been shown by Paden et. al. (1978) to be the anamorph of this species.

#### References

- Breitenbach, J. & Kränzlin, F. (1984) *Fungi of Switzerland*. 1. Ascomycetes: 108; Dennis, R.W.G. (1969) *Kew Bull.* 23: 479 - 481; (1978) *British Ascomycetes*; Paden, J.W., Sutherland, J.R. & Woods, T.A.D. (1978) *Can. J. Bot.* 56: 2375 - 2379; Rahm, E. (1947) *Schweiz. Z. Pilzk.* 25: 36 - 38.

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**76: ANTHRACOBIA MELALOMA** (Alb. & Schwein.: Fr.) Arnould in *Bull. Soc. Mycol. Fr.* 9: 112 (1893).

*Peziza melaloma* Alb. & Schwein., *Consp. fung. Lusat.*: 336 (1805); Fr., *Syst. Mycol.* 2: 68 (1822).

*Habitat*: on burnt sites, July to February, possibly throughout the year. *Distribution*: widely distributed, recorded from both hemispheres. (Photo: Surrey, Fairmile Common, on fire site, 23 Jan. 1995, E.W. Brown, K(M) 28469, developing apothecia to show marginal hairs).

*Apothecia* 3.0 - 7.0 mm diam., scattered to densely gregarious. *Disc* concave or flat to undulate, orange to pale orange, smooth. *Receptacle*

shallow cupulate, sessile, externally slightly paler, with hairs present near the margin, conspicuous even on dried material, arranged in bunches.





*Hairs* superficial, pale brown to brown, cylindric with apical cell somewhat clavate, blunt, mostly thick-walled, 40.0-120 x 3.0-9.0 µm, (0-)1-2(-3)-septate. *Ectal excipulum* of *textura globulosa* to *textura angularis*, cells (11.0-) 20.0-35.0 x (8.0-) 14.0-28.0 µm, more elongate and narrower towards the margin, walls 0.5-1.0 µm thick, colourless, becoming pale brown towards the surface. *Medullary excipulum* of *textura intricata*, comprising fine, thin-walled hyphae. *Asci* operculate, not blueing in iodine, cylindric, tapering towards the base, 160-210 x 9.0-15.0 µm, (4-)8-spored, spores uniseriate. *Ascospores* unicellular, colourless, ellipsoid, smooth, 14.0-17.0 x 7.0-9.5 µm, (1-)2-guttulate, often with a de Bary bubble in dried material. *Paraphyses* filiform, slender, septate, sometimes branched, straight, slightly enlarged at the apex to 4.0-6.0 µm diam., containing orange granules, apically agglutinated and immersed in a yellowish-brown matrix.

Pezizales - Otideaceae - *Anthracobia* Boud.

*Other remarks:* This species is widely distrib-

uted and frequent to common in Britain. Elsewhere, it has been widely reported but, due to inconsistency in delimitation of taxa and application of the name, records should be interpreted with caution. The conspicuous marginal hairs, disc colour and ascospore size of *A. melaloma* are diagnostic. *Anthracobia maurilabra* (Cooke) Boud. has similar hairs but differs in its duller, brownish-orange disc and larger ascospores (17.0-21.0 (-23.0) x 7.0-9.5 (-10.5) µm). *Anthracobia macrocystis* (Cooke) Boud. also has larger ascospores and differs further in lacking well-developed hairs. For a detailed discussion of British species of *Anthracobia* see Yao & Spooner (1995) and for a description of *A. macrocystis* see Yao & Spooner (1994).

#### References

- Hohmeyer, H.H. & Schnackertz, H. (1987) *Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Pilze Mitteleuropas* 3, 427-438; Yao, Y. - J. & Spooner, B.M. (1994). *Mycologist* 8: 107-108; Yao, Y. -J. & Spooner, B.M. (1995) *Mycol. Res.* 99: 1519-1520

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## MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETIES OF THE WORLD: THE AFRICAN MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

With the newly formed African Mycological Association (AMA) led by a zealous executive committee with a wealth of experience in mycological research, it is anticipated that many new interesting findings will be obtained by the year 2000. It is sincerely hoped that the products of mycological research within this continent will contribute greatly towards the advancement of agriculture and forestry, food industries, biotechnology and medicine.

The idea of organising mycology on the African continent was first mooted in Tampa, Florida at the Second International Mycological Congress, following which the International Mycological Association Executive Council in 1987 appointed Professor A. Peeraly as Chairman of its Committee for the Development of Mycology in Africa (CODMA). The first African Mycology Conference (RMC1), organised by Prof. Peeraly, was held in Mauritius on 13-15 June 1990 and attracted 30 mycologists from some 10 African and two European countries. This was funded by the African Bioscience Network, the Third World Academy of Sciences and the IMA. The Conference laid the foundation for mycologi-

cal development and as Professor Hawksworth remarked at the opening ceremony '...the waves from this conference will extend far beyond the beautiful coral reefs of Mauritius'. This vision was indeed realised within a period of less than five years, for three major conferences dealing with African mycology have since been held, all with much success. Presentations at the Mauritius meeting included both basic and applied aspects of mycology, including taxonomy and ecology, as well as fermentation techniques and biocontrol of weeds and insects. It was also agreed during this conference that areas of research interests by African scientists should be communicated to foster collaborative work. One very important outcome of RMC1 was the publication of the Directory of African Mycology (Hennebert & Buick, 1994).

The Second Regional Mycology Conference (RMC2) was held in Cairo, Egypt on 7-10 October 1992 and was attended by about 150 mycologists from eight countries. A total of eighty-three papers were presented during this conference and included general lectures by D.L. Hawksworth, A.H. Moubassher, P.J. Peterson, A.