Nordic Junipericolous Ascomycetes

The general appearance recalls Uncinella Laricionis var. phaeotricha, and the mountain form of Cistella pinicola, but microscopically the fungus is highly distinctive due to the peculiar, elegant hairs.

We have found it only once (cfr below), and the above description is based upon this (rather scanty) material. It agrees, however, very well with the type. The only noteworthy difference is that the hairs are rather heavily roughened in the Californian fungus, but smooth (or very nearly so) in ours.

Harkness' type material is preserved in NY and consists of two packets: 1) with the number 351-382, locality "California", contains several pine needles and one fragment of wood (oak?). The Peziza uncinata is found on the needles as well as on the wood, mirabile dictu! 2) numbered 3514, with locality "Blue Canon Cal", contains only pine needles, with the same fungus as 1).

Dennis (1963 p. 372) examined the type material, and described it, particularly stressing the peculiar hairs. Thanks to his notice our attention was drawn to Phillips' species. Dennis referred it to Unguicula, which must have been a kind of emergency solution. In our opinion its place is in Uncinella, as it is closely related to U. Laricionis var. phaeotricha, differing mainly by the peculiar one-sided thickening of the hairs.

NORWAY: Strd, oppdal, near lake Gjevilvatten, about 900 m s.m., reg. alp. 23.VIII.1973, 92e.

Haglundia sp.

Apothecia scattered or ± aggregate, superficial, in rolled and somewhat reddish brown when dry; cupulate, up to 0.5 mm diam., with a watery brown hymenium when wet.

Excipulum brown, mainly of textura angularis, cells c. 10-12(-15) μ with dark walls; at the margin profusely clothed with hairs, ad 70x5 μ, 2-4-septate, brown with hyaline tips, smooth.

Asci cylindrical, almost sessile, 45-50x7-9 μ, 8-spored. J+

Spores fusiform, 1-celled, hyaline, 8-10x3-3.5 μ.

Paraphyses as long as the asci, thread-like, not apically inflated.

On decorticated old wood or in decaying cortex of juniper.

Fig. 10 c.

We have two collections of this fungus, which probably represents an undescribed species. It is no doubt a close ally of Haglundia perelegans, the generic type, but plainly distinct, i.a. by the considerably broader spores. It is quite possible that it occurs on other conifers, too, though so far no Haglundia is known from softwood. Due to the restricted material at hand we refrain from publishing a new name.

SWEDEN, Hrj. Tämns par.: Mt Hamrafjället, c. 900 m, 27.VI.1975, 619a. Mt Malmagvålen, c. 975 m, 28.VI.1975, 625a.


Mollisia juniperina K. et L. Holm n. sp.

Apothecia sparsa vel aggregata, superficialia, subsessilia, in sicco involuta, in humido planel, 150-900 μ diam., hymenio grisio-albido, excipulo fuscobrunneo.

Excipulum c. 30 μ crassum et textura angulari-subglobosa, et cellulis fuscobrunneis, sat crassitum. Hymenium griseo-albidum, margin in pilis brevis subasperulus, apice rotundatis, 7-14 μ, saepe uni- vel bitispatis, transiens.

Asci cylindrico-clavati, subsessiles, apice subacuti pariete paullo incrassato, 55-70(-80)x7-10 μ, J+, octospori.

Ascosporae fusiformes vel subnaviculatae, hyalinae, guttulatae, postremo uniseptatae, ± asperulate marginai hairs, reminiscent of Belonium.

Excipulum brown, mainly of textura angularis, cells c. 10-12(-15) μ with dark walls; at the margin profusely clothed with hairs, ad 70x5 μ, 2-4-septate, brown with hyaline tips, smooth.

Asci cylindric, almost sessile, 45-50x7-9 μ, 8-spored. J+

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On more or less dead needles, especially on dead fruit bodies (Lophodermium Juniperi, Cytospora sp., Sclerophoma sp.). So far we have found it in 6 collections, from Sweden (Vg, Dlr, Vb) and Norway (VAgd, AuAgd, Tel).

We have also found, partly in the same material, an imperfect fungus which very probably is connected with the Mollisia. It is an excipulaceous fungus, which looks very similar to the Mollisia, and seems to be strictly mycophilous, 4 collections on Lophodermium, from Sweden (Hrj, Jmt) and Norway (VAgd, AuAgd) and one on a Nectria, on a twig, from Sweden, Vb. This imperfect is decidedly scolecosporous, with conidia 30-40x1-1.5 μ, hyaline, 3-5-septate, cf Fig. 2 d.

Propolis versicolor Fr., Summa Veg. Scand. 372. 1849.

Stictis versicolor Fr.

This polyphagous lignicolous fungus has so far not been reported on Juniperus, and is apparently not common on this host, as we have seen three collections only. Two of them have a greenish hymenium and thus represent the form called P. viridis (Fr.) Fr., which perhaps deserves some taxonomic rank.


Stegopeziza juniperina (E. Müller) Dennis n. comb.

Psilachnum juniperinum E. Müller, Sydowia 21: 146. 1967 — Type: SWITZERLAND: Wallis, Aletschwald, 1900 m s.m., on dead twigs of Juniperus communis ssp. nana, 20. IX, 1965, E. Müller (UPS, iso!).

Apothecia subsessile, 0.5-1 mm diam., solitary or a few together, erumpent on needles, superficial on twigs.

Excipulum with a velvety surface, at first light brown, darkening with age and finally almost black, below about 60 μ thick, laterally thiner, composed mainly of textura angularis, of cells up to 12 μ diam., inwards passing into textura porrecta-textura intricata. Outside the excipulum is clothed by hyaline or finally faintly brownish clavate hairs, 5-10x3-5 μ at the margin these are more cylindric and up to 15 μ. Hymenium at first greyish yellow, later with a tinge of apricot.

Asci cylindric 30-40x3.5-5 μ, almost sessile, rounded at tip, J+, 8-spored.

Paraphyses 45-55x3-4 μ, acuminate, generally 2-septate, over-topping the asci.

Fig. 2 e, 11 a-b.

A quite characteristic species, easily recognized by its velvety excipulum with a somewhat silvery surface, due to the hairs; with age the surface turns darker and more granulous. Microscopically S. juniperina is unique among all fungi on Juniperus, on account of the long, acuminate paraphyses.

Symb. Bot. Upsal. XX1:3

This species was first discovered by E. Müller in the Alps. We can confirm his description in all essentials, except for the paraphyses which are generally septate. But we can not agree with his placing the fungus in the Hyaloscyphaeaceae. Its true affinites were doubtful to us, until Dr. Dennis (in litt.) suggested Stegopeziza. This genus, based, on S. Lauri has so far been monotypic. We have examined the type species and found a close agreement in most of the essential characters: the general appearance is very similar, as are also spores, asci, and paraphyses—the latter are septate even in S. Lauri. The only important difference is that the hairs are tipped by crystals in the laurei fungus, but otherwise the hairs are much alike. The presence or absence of crystals is hardly a generic character—cf Dasyscypha. According to Sutton and Pirozynski (1963 p. 519) "Stegopeziza is closely related to Hysterostegiella, and possibly congeneric".

So far this species was known only from the type locality in the Swiss Alps, and perhaps it is boreo-alpine. We have 20 collections from Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Iceland. In 1971 it was evidently frequent in Iceland (mostly found on needles), and in 1973 we found it several times in the Oppdal area, in the Central Norwegian mountains. The Finnish find is from Kevo, in Finnish Lapland. In Sweden we have collected it in Hrj, Tännäs, but also made some very scanty finds in the lowlands (Upl, Vsm, Dlr, Vb).

Hypodermaeusae

Colpomata Juniperi (Karst.) Dennis, Kew Bull. 1957 p. 401.


Colpomata juniperinum Rehm, Ver. Nathist. Ver. Augsburg 26: 69. 1881 — Type: Austria, "Auf der Rinde absterbender Äste und Stämchen von Juniperus nana im Längenthal bei Kühleit (Oetz) in Tyrol. c. 6200" (Rehm, Asc. 272; UPS, iso!).


Fig. 1 c. 15 g.


Distribution: Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Greenland, Switzerland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Italy, USA, N.Y. (Sde Ellis & Everhart 1892 p. 723).

This corticicolous species is recognized already by its size. It is one of the largest fungi on juniper, the fruiting bodies generally being 1-2 mm long, not

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Fig. 2 a) Gremmeniella juniperina: ascus, paraphyses, germinating spores. b) Gremmeniella abietina: ascus, paraphyses, and spores. c) Mollisia cfr caespiticia: marginai hairs, ascus and paraphyses. d) Fungi imperfecti: conidia. e) Stegopeziza juniperina: marginai hair, ascus, paraphyses, and spores. f) Mollisia juniperina: marginai hairs, spores—two of them germinating with phialoconidia at one end and with germ tube at the other—paraphyses, and ascus. — All c. x840.