

Notes about *Bulgariella nigrita* (Fr.) Sacc.

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The genus *Bulgariella* was erected by Karsten [Acta Societatis pro Fauna et Flora Fennica 2 (6): 142. 1885] for taxa externally resembles *Bulgaria* for its sessile, dark, subgelatinous apothecia, cylindric 8-spored asci and brown spores. The distinctiveness between *Bulgaria* and *Bulgariella* is the shape of the apothecia: “*turbinata, primitus clausa*” for the first, “*planiuscula, semper aperta*” for the second. Karsten created the genus for *Patellaria pulla* Fr.

This last taxon was described by Fries in 1822 with the following diagnosis:

5. *P. pulla*, subgelatinosa, sessilis, glabra, junior plana integerrima olivaceo-nigra, dein convexa aterrima, disco pruinoso-pulverulento.

Fungus admodum memorabilis, *Bulgaris* analogus, sed distinctissimus. Gregaria, carnosogelatinosa, sublenta, crassiuscula, etiam intus atra. Junior $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 lin. lata, marginata, dein 3-4 lin. usque & saepe in series biunciales confluit, e mutuam pressionem irregularis & undulata. Asci teneus. Sporidia nigro-aeruginosa. Subiculum nullum. Ad lignum dejectum fabrefactum mucidum *Pini silvestris*, non frequens, quot annis tamen magna, habui copiam. Aut. (v. v.)

B. *P. nigro-olivacea*, sessilis, cupula pianissima, margine subcrenulato, subiculo e filis radiatis nigros insidens.

[Fries, Syst. Mycol. 2 (1): 160. 1822]

In 1889 Saccardo describes a second species for the genus: *Bulgariella nigrita*, based on *Bulgaria nigrita* Fr. This taxon was described by Fries in 1828 with the following diagnosis:

6. *B. nigita*, sessilis, scutellato-explanata, subgelatinosa, atra, subtus umbrino-puberula.

Recens carnosogelatinosa, orbicularis, tota nigra, intus nitida !; sicca inflexo-repanda; intus opaca, atra; extus puberula, umbrina, circa margines striatula. A reliquis sui generis eximie differt cupula sessili, late expansa, tenuiori; nec facile cum ulla *Peziza* comparanda. Hymenium B. inquinantis. Ad truncus abiegnos in *Rutheniae* silvis. Novembri. Wienmann. (v. s.).

[Fries, Elench. Fung. 2: 16. 1828]

In 1907 Boudier erected the genus *Catinella* with this diagnosis:

Je fonde ce genre sur une seule espèce, le *Pez. olivacea* de Batsch, qui a été placée tantôt dans un genre, tantôt dans une autre. Je la crois mieux placée près des *Karschia* dont elle a les caractères de famille. Ce genre est caractérisé par des réceptacles aplatis marginés très grands par rapport aux espèces de cette famille, puisqu'ils atteignent et même dépassent quelquefois un centimètre de

diamètre. Ces réceptacles sont noirs à marge jaune-olivâtre, glabres ou à peine granulés extérieurement par les cellules extérieures qui sont agglomérées en poils septes, très courts et très serrez. L'hymenium est plan, noir. La chair est colorée. Les theques sont simples ou divisées, septées, en massue au sommet et recouvertes pas un gélin épithécial brunâtre Les spores sont sans cloisons, noirâtres, avec deux sporidioles, et oblonges un peu resserrées au milieu. Ce sont des Champignons très plats, d'où le nom, qui viennent sur les vieux bois pourris et les vieilles souches humides. Je n'en connais encore qu'une seule espèce, le *Catinella olivacea* Batsch El., p. 127, fig. 51. – Sacc. Syll. VIII, p. 770 et p. 148. – Boud. Icon. Mycol. Tom. III. Pl. 452.

In his monograph of the genus *Catinella* the American sociologist Durand [Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club 49 (1): 15-21. 1922] presents the new combination *C. nigro-olivacea*, based on *Patellaria pulla* [var.] *nigro-olivacea* Fr., and places in synonymy with it *Bulgaria nigra* and *Catinella olivacea* [op. cit.: 16].

A detailed description of *C. nigro-olivacea* is located in Seaver:

Apothecia sessile, solitary or several crowded together, attached to the substratum by numerous radiating dark-brown fibers more conspicuous in young plants, at first subglobose and closed, then expanding with a permanently upturned margin, at first entirely greenish yellow, becoming darker green, finally blackish with an olive tint, when old the exterior brownish and furfuraceous and vertically striate, fleshy and somewhat gelatinous when fresh, brittle when dry; reaching a diameter of 1 cm. but usually much smaller; mycelial fibers about the base very coarse, straight or strongly kinked, septate, dark-brown, reaching a diameter of 10 μ , radiating 2-3 mm. beyond the base of -the apothecium; asci narrowly cylindrical-clavate, 8-spored, reaching a length of 75-90 μ , and a diameter of 5-6 μ ; spores uniseriate, irregularly ellipsoid, often slightly constricted near the center so as to appear slipper-shaped, containing one or two oil-drops, pale olive, becoming brown, 4-5 x 7-10 μ ; paraphyses cylindrical, simple or rarely branched.

[Seaver, Mycologia 38 (4): 474, 476. 1946]

In agreement with Gamundi the genus *Catinella* and the genus *Bulgariella* differ in the structure dell'excipulum: "it is typically dermataceous in *Catinella* and truly bulgarioid ("textura intricate" in *Bulgariella* giving a fragile consistency to the former and a gelatinous one to the latter" [Sydowia, 34: 92. 1981].

I think the only way to know the true identity of *Bulgariella nigrita* (Fr.)Sacc. is to verify the existence of a typical material in the herbaria of Fries. This work seems to have been done by Durand that, in the aforementioned monograph, writes: " In 1830, Fries described as *Bulgaria nigrita* a plant collected in Russia by Weinmann. So far as the writer can (discover, no more recent collection has been referred to this species, which has remained practically unknown for nearly a century. In the Friesian Herbarium is a specimen marked "*Bulgaria nigrita*, Petersburg," in Elias Fries's own hand, which is in all probability the original type. When the writer saw it, in 1904, he was at once impressed with its gross resemblance

to the American plant. Sub-sequent microscopical examination removed all doubts as to their specific identity” [Durand, op. cit.: 18].