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DENDROTHELE NIVOSA (CORTICIACEAE) IN ITALY

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Riassunto : l'autore riferisce di un ritrovamento recente - avvenuto in una delle Foreste Demaniali della Sardegna, a Montes, nel Supramonte di Orgosolo (Nuoro) - e precisamente di Dendrothele nivosa, specie fino ad ora considerata nord americana.

Summary : a recent find is reported of Dendrothele nivosa, in one of the Sardinian State forests, at Montes on the Supramonte di Orgosolo (Nuoro). Hitherto, this species was regarded as North American.

Résumé : l'auteur signale une récente découverte de Dendrothele nivosa dans une forêt d'Etat en Sardaigne, près de Montes, Supramonte di Orgosolo (Nuoro). L'espèce n'était connue jusqu'ici qu'en Amérique du Nord.

Zusammenfassung : Die Autorin berichtet von einem Fund von Dendrothele nivosa aus einer Staatswaldung in Sardinien bei Montes, Supramonte di Orgosolo (Nuoro). Bis anhin war die Art nur aus Nordamerika bekannt.

Several interesting and rare fungi were collected in forest areas of Sardinia, Italy. A corticioid species identified as Dendrothele nivosa (Berk. & Curt.) Lemke, is of interest because it was known previously only from North America (Gilbertson, 1985).

Dendrothele nivosa (Berk. & Curt.) Lemke

Basidiocarp as small linear patches, very often elongated, 0,5-2,2 cm long when dry, 0,5-0,7 mm thick when well developed and mature.

Hymenial surface pure white, with chalky appearance, pulverulent, velvety under the lens, only slightly tuberculate and with some small cracks; margins determinated and thick.

Hyphal system monomitic. Hyphae very difficult to see, obscured in very abundant crystalline material, 2-3 μm wide, with simple septa (occasional clamps according to Gilbertson, 1985 and Jülich, 1980).

Dendrohyphidia, very numerous and mixed with broadly clavate sterile elements, are covered with crystals.

Basidia very stout, 70-80 μm long, 10 μm wide at the base and 14-16 μm at the apex, with 4 sterigmata very stout when immature, (Photo 1) slender, long and curved at maturity (Photos 2,3).

Basidiospores subglobose to ovoid, hyaline, non-amyloid, very finely echinulate (Photo 4), 20-26 x 18-19 μm with a prominent apiculus 2,5-3 μm long.

Specimen examined : Italia, Supramonte di Orgosolo, Montes Forest (Nuoro), Sardinia 7. Nov. 1985, A. Bernicchia 3802; 3810 : Herbarium Universitatis Bononiensis.

Substratum : on living trunks of Juniperus phoenicea L.

Habitat : This corticioid fungus was collected in the Montes Forests (Nuoro) at Supramonte di Orgosolo at 900 m s.l., Sardinia, Italy, covering a very wide mountainous area in the central part of the island. The appearance of the forest is very varied and, together with the typical forest, forms a splendid high

forest of ancient Quercus ilex L., one of the very few natural holly oaks of the Mediterranean area. There are stands of maqui, garigue and prairie which partly originated from a disastrous fire which, in 1931, spread over 3000 ha of State lands. It was largely after the fire that the maqui consisting of Erica, Arbutus, Cistus, Lavandula, Rosmarinus, garigue with Santolina and Thymus and prairie with Asphodelus, Juniperus and Santolina originated.

Distribution : North America and Italy.

Acknowledgement : the author deeply thanks Prof. R. L. Gilbertson, Arizona University, for confirming the identification (pers. comm.).

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Captions

Photo 1 : Immature basidium of Dendrothele nivosa.

Photo 2 : Mature basidium of D.nivosa.

Photo 3 : Basidia of D.nivosa.

Photo 4 : Basidiospores of D.nivosa.

