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SOME INTERESTING HYALOSCYPHACEAE FROM NORTH ITALY

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SUMMARY: The authors describe and illustrate four rare or poorly known species of the Hyaloscyphaceae collected from North Italy. Two new combinations are made: *Albotricha alpina* (Rehm) comb. nov. and *Albotricha caduca* (Rehm) comb. nov.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG: Die Verfasser beschreiben und illustrieren vier in Norditalien gesammelte seltene oder wenig bekannte Pilzarten aus der Familie Hyaloscyphaceae. Sie legen zwei neue Kombinationen vor: *Albotricha alpina* (Rehm) comb. nov. und *Albotricha caduca* (Rehm) comb. nov.

RIASSUNTO: Gli autori descrivono ed illustrano quattro rare o poco conosciute specie delle Hyaloscyphaceae raccolte nel Nord Italia. Essi presentano due nuove combinazioni: *Albotricha alpina* (Rehm) comb. nov. ed *Albotricha caduca* (Rehm) comb. nov.

Albotricha alpina (Rehm) Raitv. & Sacconi comb. nov.

Basionymum: *Lachnum albotestaceum* f. *alpinum* Rehm, Hedwigia 31(1), Beiblatt: (31), 1904.

Apothecia scattered, cupulate on a short but distinct slender stalk, 0.4 - 0.5 mm in diameter, externally covered with long dense white hairs, hymenium pale egg-yellow. Ectal excipulum of textura prismatica, cells short, sometimes slightly rounded, with hyaline

to pale yellowish thickened walls, 8-12 x 6-9 μm . Hairs conical, pointed, multiseptate with thin hyaline walls, sometimes pale yellowish in lower part, smooth but incrustated with rather large sparse granules in lower part, up to 280 μm long, 2.8 - 3.5 μm in diameter. Asci cylindrical to cylindric-clavate, 75 x 7.2 μm , with biseriate arrangement of spores. Spores fusoid, hyaline, aseptate or rarely 1-septate, 15-21 x 2.4-3 μm . Paraphyses lanceolate, 12 - 15 μm exceeding the asci, 2.8 - 3 μm in diameter (Fig. 1).

Specimen examined: Alpi Trentine (Dolomites), on decaying culms of grass, 1700 m above sea level, 12.09.1986.

This species resembles externally *Albotricha acutipila* and *A. caduca* when fresh but its long hairs and the structure of ectal excipulum show that it is more closely related to *A. albotestacea*. It differs from the latter in longer spores and asci. The fungus, which has not been reported after the publication of original description, deserves undoubtedly the specific rank. *A. alpina* seems to have an Arcto-Alpine distribution. One of us (A.R.) has examined two Arctic collections of this species which will be discussed in detail elsewhere. The specimen from the Dolomites is slightly overmature and yields a great number of germinating spores. Due to this fact the spores are slightly swollen and longer (mean length 18.0 μm) than observed in the LE copy of Rehm's Ascomyceten No 1528 and in Arctic collections (range of individual mean lengths variability 13 - 16 μm).

Albotricha caduca (Rehm) Raitv. & Sacconi comb. nov.

Basionymum: *Trichopeziza caduca* Rehm, Ber. Naturh. Ver. Augsburg, 26: 42, 1881.

Syn.: *Lachnum caducum* (Rehm), Rabenh. Krypt.-Fl. 1(3), 882, 1893.

Apothecia scattered, cupulate on a well-developed stalk or sometimes substipitate, 0.5 - 0.8 μm in diameter, externally white to pale yellowish, covered with long white hairs, hymenium yellowish cream-coloured to yellow or bright orange. Ectal excipulum of textura prismatica, cells hyaline, thin-walled, 7-11 x 5-6.5 μm . Hairs conical, pointed, thin-walled, 6 - 7-septate, hyaline, smooth, incrustated with sparse colourless granules of amorphous matter, 135-210 x 3.5 μm . Asci cylindrical, 55-(65-70)-75 x 5.5-(5.8-5.8)-7.2 μm ¹⁾, with biseriate or irregularly biseriate arrangement of spores. Spores ellipsoid to fusoid-ellipsoid, aseptate, 10-(12-13)-15.5 x 2.5-(2.6-

¹⁾The range of individual means of variability for ascus and spore measurements is given in parentheses.

-3.2)-3.5 μm . Paraphyses lanceolate, sometimes septate at their base, 20 - 30 μm exceeding the asci, 3 - 4 μm in diameter (Fig. 2).

Specimens examined: On dead culms and leaves of grasses, Alpi Trentine (Dolomites), 1700 m above sea level, 3. and 13.09.1984.

This species is very closely related to *Albotricha acutipila*, but, in our opinion, clearly different from the latter in broader spores and longer asci. *A. acutipila* has asci 44-60 x 4-5.6 μm and spores 11-14.5 x 1.5-1.9 μm . The two collections from the Dolomites agree well with the H copy of Rehm's Ascomyceten No 160b distributed as *Trichopeziza caduca* Rehm and which is evidently a paratype collection.

Dennis (1949) listed this species as a synonym of *Dasyscypha acutipila* (Karst.) Sacc. on the basis of de Thümen's Mycotheca univ. No 314. This exsiccate as well as Rehm's Ascomyceten No 1528b distributed under the name *Lachnum caducum* (Rehm) Rehm represent an alpine form (or subspecies) of *A. acutipila* with distinctly deep orange to orange-red hymenium. The brightly coloured hymenium of *A. acutipila* in high mountains in contrast to whitish hymenium in the lowland collections of this species is evidently the reason why even Rehm himself has confused these two species. In the commentaries to *Lachnum caducum* he points out the differences between it and *L. acutipilum*: "Steht dem *L. acutifolium* Karst. (sic!) nahe, unterscheidet sich jedoch durch die Färbung, durch breitere Sporen und durch den Standort vollständig." (Rehm, 1896: 882). From three listed characters the hymenium colour is, as said, fully misleading, the differences in habitat are difficult to establish, but the broad spores (combined with long asci, overlooked by Rehm) are a good key character sufficient to distinguish between *A. caduca* and *A. acutipila*.

Dasyscyphella montana Raitv., Eesti NSV TA Toim., Biol., 26: 32, 1977.

Apothecia scattered, cupulate on a well-developed long cylindrical hairy stalk, externally covered with long hairs, totally white or with flattened and pale cream-coloured hymenium, remaining permanently white after drying. Ectal excipulum of textura prismatica, cells hyaline, thin-walled. Hairs cylindrical with swollen tips, thin-walled, hyaline, finely granulate but with smooth clavate apical cells, 80-100 x 3-3.5 μm , apically 3.7 - 5 μm . Asci cylindrical-clavate, 57 x 4.4 μm with obliquely uniseriate arrangement of spores. Spores ellipsoid, sometimes slightly clavate, 7.8-10 x 1.8-2.2 μm . Paraphyses

lanceolate, often with a central transverse septum, up to 30 μm exceeding the asci, 4 - 4.5 μm in diameter (Fig. 4).

Specimen examined: On dead bark of *Corylus avellana*, Bosco di Carrega, near Parma (in Po Valley), 150 m above sea level, 13.09.1984.

D. montana is closely related to *D. nivea* but differs from the latter in several important features. The apothecia of *D. montana* remain permanently white after drying whereas the apothecia of *D. nivea* turn orange after drying. *D. montana* has also considerably longer asci than *D. nivea*. The specimen from Bosco di Carrega is a somewhat unusual one. It has longer and broader paraphyses than usually observed in the representatives of this species. Also its ascus and spore lengths expand the upper limits of variability of these characters (Raitviir, 1977). Evidently the geographic variability of *D. montana* in the Middle Asia Mountains and in the Alps needs a detailed study on the basis of more abundant material.

Lachnum dumorum (Rob.) Huhtinen, *Naturaliste can.* (Rev. Ecol. Syst.), 112: 502, 1985.

Apothecia scattered, sessile on a broad base, cupulate, 0.15 mm in diameter, externally with pale ochraceous base and white margin, covered by rather sparse hairs, often arranged into tufts, hymenium white. Dried apothecia have brownish base and white margin. Ectal excipulum composed of *textura prismatica*, cells hyaline, thin-walled. Hairs cylindrical, flexuous, aseptate, thin-walled, finely granulate in their whole length, hyaline to pale brownish, 30-50 x 3.5-4 μm . Asci cylindrical to cylindrical-clavate, 30-33 x 4.5-5 μm , with irregularly biseriate arrangement of spores. Spores ellipsoid, often slightly clavate, aseptate, 5.7-7.8 x 1.7-2.2 μm . Paraphyses cylindrical to sublanceolate, not exceeding the asci, 1 mm in diameter (Fig. 3).

Specimen examined: On decaying leaves of *Rubus idaeus*, Prealpi Venete, Bosco del Cansiglio, 1100 m above sea level, 11.06.1986.

This minute discomycete on decaying leaves of *Rubus* could easily be overlooked and evidently for this reason it has seldom been reported in mycological works. It should be noted, however, that different authors give different ascus and spore measurements for this species:

	Spores (μm)	Asci (μm)
Saccardo, 1889	5-8 x 1.5-2	27-29 x 4-5
Rehm, 1896	8-9 x 2	36-40 x 6-8
Dennis, 1949	4-5 x 1-1.5	30-35 x 4
Huhtinen, 1985	4-6 x 1-1.5	20-25 x 3-4.5
Raitviir & Sacconi	5.7-7.8 x 1.7-2.2	30-33 x 4.3-5

Further collections of this interesting little Discomycete are needed to establish the actual range of variability of its characters.

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EXPLANATION TO THE FIGURES

- Fig. 1. *Albotricha alpina*. Ascus with spores and paraphyses, a hair and spores.
- Fig. 2. *Albotricha caduca*. Paraphyse and ascus with spores and spores.
- Fig. 3. *Lachnum dumorum*. Spores, ascus with paraphyse and marginal hairs.
- Fig. 4. *Dasyscyphella montana*. Ascus and paraphyse and two hairs, spores.



