



Six Genera of Physaraceae (Myxomycetes) in Taiwan

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ABSTRACT: Species of six genera *Badhamia*, *Craterium*, *Fuligo*, *Leocarpus*, *Physarella*, and *Willkommlangea* (Physaraceae) reported from Taiwan are critically revised. Two new records, *Craterium concinnum* and *Leocarpus fragilis* and an unknown species of *Craterium* are described and illustrated in this paper. Keys to the species of *Badhamia*, *Craterium*, and *Fuligo*, and a key to the genera of Physaraceae from Taiwan are also provided.

KEY WORDS: Myxomycetes, Physaraceae, Taiwan, taxonomy.

INTRODUCTION

The fruiting bodies of all members in Physaraceae are often limy, with non-crystalline lime granules and dark-colored spore mass. Their capillitia are typically composed of calcareous nodes connected by slender and hyaline threads (physaroid), or of calcareous tubes and thickened nodes (badhamioid). In Taiwan, 7 genera out of the 10 world records are known. The distinct characteristics separating the genera from each other are shown in the key to the genera provided. In this paper we compile data of six genera: *Badhamia*, *Craterium*, *Fuligo*, *Leocarpus*, *Physarella*, and *Willkommlangea*, leaving the largest genus *Physarum* to a separate paper. Characteristic examination for the fruiting bodies of these specimens were made by light and scanning electron microscopy as described previously (Liu et al., 2002a).

TAXONOMIC TREATMENTS

Key to genera of Physaraceae in Taiwan

1. Capillitium of two morphologically distinct systems 2
 1. Capillitium essentially homogenous 4
 2. Fruiting body plasmodiocarpous, peridium opaque, encrusted with red spots and white lime granules on the surface *Willkommlangea*
 2. Fruiting body sporangiate, if plasmodiocarpous, then usually accompanied by sporangia 3
 3. Sporangia ovate; outer peridium yellowish brown, cartilaginous, smooth, shining; capillitium a limy network, connected with and interpenetrating a limeless net of flattened tubules *Leocarpus*
 3. Sporangia cylindrical, deeply perforated from above, appearing as a hollow cup, rarely plasmodiocarpous; peridium rough; capillitium composed of stout calcareous spines and a net work of slender threads bearing a few calcareous nodes *Physarella*
 4. Capillitium a network of calcareous tubes of nearly uniform diameter; limeless connecting tubules few or none *Badhamia*

4. Capillitium a network of limeless tubules with connected calcareous nodes at many or all the junctions 5
5. Fruiting body an aethalium; pseudocapillitium present *Fuligo*
5. Fruiting body sporangiate or plasmodiocarpous, rarely approaching aethaloid; pseudocapillitium lacking 6
6. Fruiting body plasmodiocarpous, cylindrical, pendent, often anastomosing to form a 3-dimensional network *Fuligo aurea* (= *Erionema*)
6. Fruiting body sporangiate or plasmodiocarpous, rarely pendent; never forming a 3-dimensional network in the plasmodiocarpous fruiting body 7
7. Fruiting body sporangiate; dehiscence often circumscissile or by a preformed lid, the lower portion always persisting as a deep cup *Craterium*
7. Sporangiate or plasmodiocarpous, rarely somewhat aethaloid; dehiscence irregular or lobate, never circumscissile; the lower portion of peridium persisting as at most as a shallow or irregular cup *Physarum*

Key to species of *Badhamia* in Taiwan

1. Spores in clusters; peridium double; sporangia usually yellow, greenish yellow, or dull yellow, rarely iridescent *B. nitens*
1. Spores free; peridium single; sporangia white, grayish or pale gray 2
2. Usually stalked 3
2. Usually sessile or shortly stipitate 4
3. Spores angular in profile, with large reticulum, 1-6 in a hemisphere on the surface; stalk pale straw-colored, weak *B. gracilis*
3. Spores not angular in profile, without large reticulum on the surface; stalk white, limy throughout *B. formosana*
4. Spores minutely punctate, usually ovoid; stalk, if present, red *B. panicea*
4. Spores densely spinulose or warted, usually globose; stalk, when present, yellowish brown or nearly black 5
5. Capillitium radiating from the base to the periphery of sporangia; stalk, when present, dark, nearly black *B. affinis*
5. Capillitium reticulate; stalk, when present, yellowish or brown, only dark at the base *B. macrocarpa*

Badhamia affinis Rostaf., Sluzowce monogr. 143. 1874.

It was reported as a new record without any description and illustration (Wang et al., 1981).



As pointed out in the reference (Nennenga-Bremekamp, 1991), it is difficult to distinguish this species from *B. macrocarpa*. The capillitium is radiated from the base of the sporangium in *B. affinis*, not reticulate as that in *B. macrocarpa*, and is rarely branched and not or hardly interconnected.

Badhamia formosana C.H. Liu and Y.F. Chen, *Taiwania* 47: 291. 2002.

Description and illustration: Liu et al. (2002b).

Badhamia gracilis (T. Macbr.) T. Macbr., in T. Macbr. & G. W. Martin, *The Myxomycetes* (New York): 35. 1934.

Description and illustration: Liu (1990).

Badhamia macrocarpa (Ces.) Rostaf., *Sluzowce monogr.* 143. 1874.

It was reported in a list by Nakazawa (1929), but no specimen was deposited in Taiwan.

Badhamia nitens Berk., *Trans. Linn. Soc. London* 21: 153. 1853.

It was reported in a list by Nakazawa (1929), but no specimen was deposited in Taiwan.

Badhamia panicea (Fr.) Rostaf., in *Fuckel, Jahrb. Nassauischen Vereins Naturk.* 27-28: 71. 1873

It was reported as a new record without any description and illustration by Wang et al. (1981). A species very close to *B. macrocarpa*, but it has smoother and usually ovoid spores (Nennenga-Bremekamp, 1991).

Key to species of *Craterium* in Taiwan

1. Fructification sessile or rarely short-stalked 2
1. Fructification stalked 3
2. Sporangia reddish brown *C. reticulatum*
2. Sporangia white, or whitish *C. leucocephaleum* var. *sessile*
3. Sporangia not bright yellow (if globose, then white or grayish white), obconical or deep cup-like, with a preformed lid of dehiscence 4
3. Sporangia bright yellow 6
4. Sporangia turbinate or funnel-shaped, brownish; peridium double, thick 5
4. Sporangia deep cup-like or globose, white, grayish; peridium single *C. leucocephaleum*
5. Lime nodes small, ochraceous or brownish *C. concinnum*
5. Lime nodes large, white *C. minutum*
6. Sporangia obovoid or turbinate, lime node yellow, dehiscence often irregular from the top *C. aureum*
6. Sporangia globose or prolate, lime node white, dehiscence petaloid at the upper part *Craterium* sp.

Craterium aureum (Schumach.) Rostaf., *Sluzowce monogr.* 124. 1874.

Specimens examined: TAIWAN, Taipei City: Yungmin Lake, on fallen leaves, *CHL B1414*, Mar. 27, 1997; *CHL B1415*, Apr. 1, 1998; Peitou, Yangmingshan National Park, on fallen leaves of *Liquidambar formosana*, *CHL B2309*, Aug. 24, 2001.

It was reported as a new record without any description and illustration (Wang et al., 1981). There are some differences in our specimens from the typical *C. aureum*. The pseudocolumella is not observed and our spores are smaller (7.0-8.5 μm), which are 8-10 μm in diameter in the references (Martin and Alexopoulos, 1969; Nannenga-Bremekamp, 1991).

Craterium concinnum Rex, *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.* 45: 370. 1893. Figs. 1A-H

Fructification sporangiate, loosely gregarious, (0.15-) 0.38-0.68 mm in total height. Sporangia obovate or goblet-shaped, pale reddish brown to brown, stipitate, 0.12-0.38 mm in diameter, with a paler and convex operculum. Peridium double, the outer layer cartilaginous, thick, closely attached to the membranous inner layer; dehiscent along the rim of the lid as a whole. Stalk about half the total height or often a little shorter, brownish, furrowed. Capillitium abundant, consisted of small, rounded or angular, brownish lime nodes connected by short and transparent threads. Spores nearly black in mass, dusky brown by transmitted light, globose, 8.5-10.5 μm in diameter, minutely and densely warted.

Specimen examined: TAIWAN, Taipei City: Peitou, Yangmingshan National Park, on decayed twigs and leaves, *Y.F. Chen* 504, Aug. 7, 1995.

Distinguished by its small fruiting bodies, the pale and convex operculum, and the small and brownish lime nodes, which separate it from *C. minutum*. In *C. minutum* the operculum is often sunken, the lime nodes are white and larger.

Craterium leucocephalum (Pers. ex J.F. Gmel.) Ditmar, in *Sturm, Deutschl. Fl. Pilze* 1: 21. 1813.

Craterium leucocephalum var. *scyphoides* (Cooke & Balf.) G. Lister, in *List, Mycet. ed.* 2. 97. 1911.

Description and illustration: Shi (1981).

Specimens examined: TAIWAN, Taipei City: main campus of National Taiwan Univ., on straw, *CHL B357*, Apr. 3, 1984; Peitou, Yangmingshan National Park, on twigs, *CHL B2246*, Nov. 30, 2000.

This is a common, distinctive species and easy to be recognized in the field by a hand lens. The distinctive character is the stalked, cylindrical, white sporangium with an operculum-like apex.

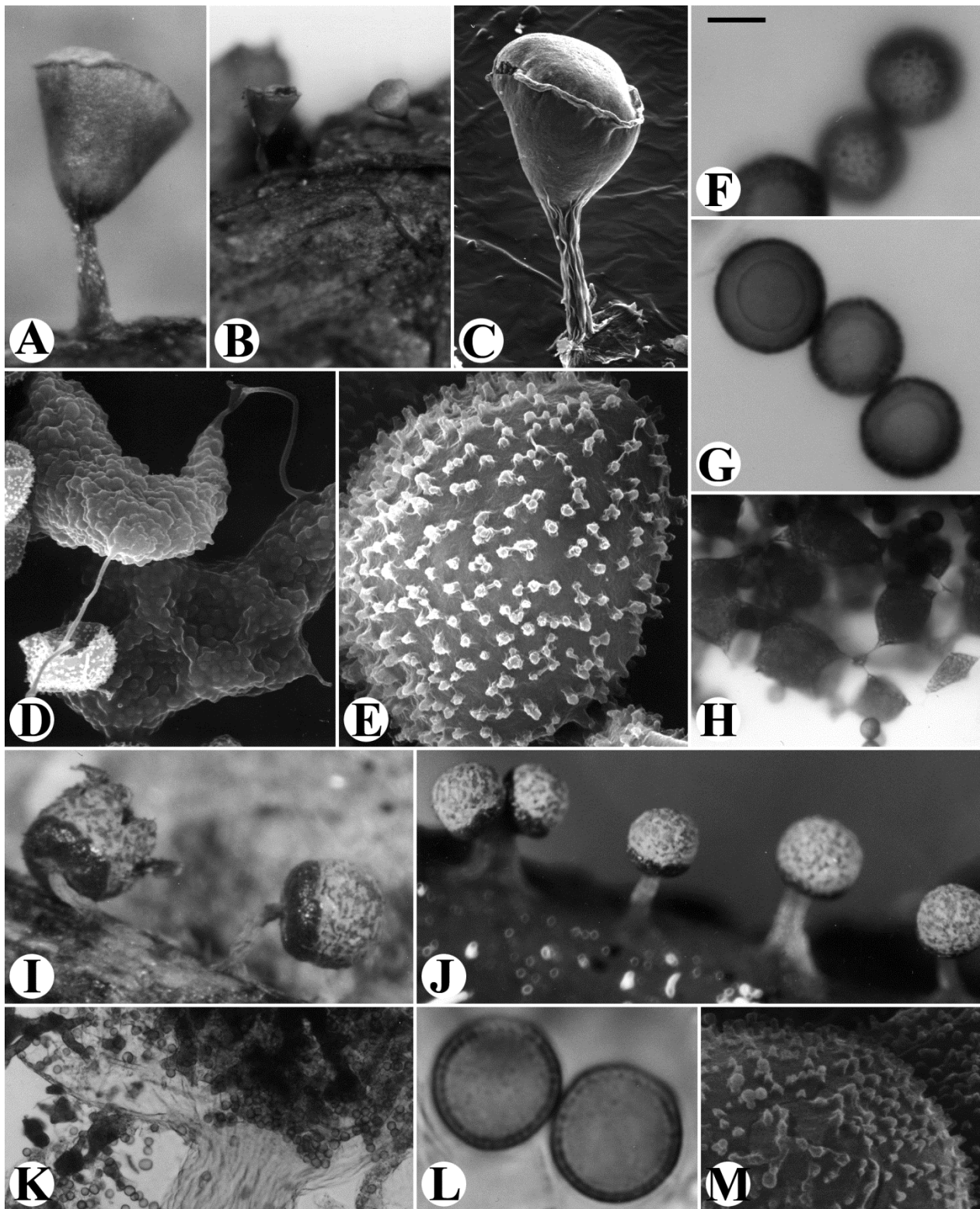


Fig. 1. A-H. *Craterium concinnum*. A-B: Fruiting bodies. C: One fruiting body, by SEM. D: Capillitial threads and lime nodes, by SEM. E: Surface markings of spore, by SEM. F: Surface view of spores. G: Marginal view of spores. H: Capillitial threads and lime nodes. I-M. *Craterium* sp. I-J: Fruiting bodies. K: Limeless basal part of peridium. L: Marginal view of spores. M: Surface markings of spore, by SEM. Scale bar: A = 130 μm ; B, J = 320 μm ; C = 91 μm ; D = 3.8 μm ; E = 0.95 μm ; F, G, L = 5 μm ; H = 25 μm ; I = 210 μm ; K = 70 μm ; M = 0.84 μm .



Craterium leucocephalum var. *sessile* C.H. Liu, I.G. Huang & J.H. Chang, *Taiwania* 46: 326. 2001.

Description and illustration: Liu et al. (2001).

Craterium minutum (Leers) Fr., *Syst. Mycol.* 3: 151. 1829.

Description and illustration: Chung and Liu (1997b).

Specimens examined: TAIWAN, Taipei City: Peitou, Yangmingshan National Park, on fallen leaves of *Liquidambar formosana*, *CHL B2284*, Oct. 22, 2000. Taichung: Hoping, Mt. Tao, on decayed twigs and leaves, *CHL B1155*, Feb. 2, 1994. Nantou County: Sinyi, Guangao, on fallen twigs, *CHL B777*, Jan. 7, 1988.

This species is characterized by the deep, brownish cup, the cartilaginous outer peridium, and the lid which is often sunken or at least depressed at the margins. Specimen *CHL B777* is a collection with larger and stalked sporangia (0.5-0.9 mm in diameter, 1.0-1.27 mm in total height) containing large spores of 10-11 μm in diameter.

Craterium reticulatum Nann.-Bremek. & Y. Yamam., *Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wetensch. C.* 90: 314. 1987.

Craterium leucocephalum var. *rufum* G. Lister, *A monograph of the Mycetozoa* 3 ed. 78. 1925.

Description and illustration: Chung and Liu (1997b).

Specimen examined: TAIWAN, Hualien County: Kuanyuan Forest Recreation Area, on plant debris, *C.-H. Chung M1401*, Apr. 19, 1996.

It is similar to *C. leucocephalum* var. *sessile* in the shape of sporangia (sessile, long and conical) but different by the lid which in var. *sessile* is white (due to the dense white lime granules) and dehiscent as a whole piece along a circumscissile, fine line, while in *C. reticulatum* the lid is brown and fragmented at dehiscence.

Craterium sp.

Figs. 11-M

Fructification sporangiate, stipitate, gregarious, erect, or nodding in some, 0.9-1.0 mm in total height. Sporangium globose or prolate, 0.4-0.5 mm in diameter. Peridium membranous, the upper two-third deposited with bright yellow lime granules, the remaining part thickened, translucent, smooth, limeless, brown to pale brownish yellow under transmitted light, dehiscent lobately or irregularly from the top to about one third of the sporangium, below persistent as a deep cup. Stalk erect or curved in few, pale brownish yellow, wrinkled, limeless, about 1/2-2/3 times of total height in length. Hypothallus membranous, pale brownish yellow.

Columella lacking. Capillitium dense, netted, lime nodes white, angular, abundant, capillitial threads hyaline, tubular. Spores dark brown in mass, brown under transmitted light, minutely warted, globose or subglobose, 8.5-11.5 (-13.5) μm in diameter. Plasmodium yellow.

Specimen examined: TAIWAN, Pingtung County: Nanjen Lake, on dead log, *Y.F. Chen186*, plasmodium collected on Jan. 31, 1996, fruiting bodies harvested on Feb. 12, 1996.

The distinct characters are the prolate or globose sporangia, the membranous peridium covered by bright yellow lime granules on the upper two-third portion of the sporangium, and the petaloid dehiscence at the upper part, the remaining persistent as a deep cup which is a distinct feature of the genus *Craterium*. The above combined characters are not identical with any known species of *Craterium*.

Key to species of *Fuligo* in Taiwan

1. Fructification plasmodiocarpous, cylindrical, pendent, often anastomosing to form a 3-dimensional net *F. aurea*
1. Fructification aethaloid 2
2. Aethalium usually yellow, sometimes violet or white; spores 6-9 μm in diameter, lime nodes small, fusiform *F. septitica*
2. Spores usually exceeding 10 μm in diameter; lime nodes large, angular or irregular in shape 3
3. Cortex thick, lime nodes connected by hyaline threads; spores spinulose, spinules often connected by narrow ridges into a broken reticulum *F. cinerea*
3. Cortex thin, sometimes lacking; capillitium badhamioid, with a few hyaline threads; spores minutely warted *F. intermedia*

Fuligo aurea (Penzig) Y. Yamam., *Myxomycete Biota Japan* 390. 1998. Figs. 2A-G

Erionema aureum Penz., *Myxomyc. Fl. Buitenzorg* 37. 1898.

Fructification plasmodiocarpous, pendent, on the surface of substrate, composed of many tubular plasmodiocarps, each tube with one end adhering to the hypothallus, intertwined to form a 3-dimensional net, up to more than 5 cm in total length, more than 1.5 cm in total width. Plasmodiocarps bright yellow or greenish yellow, tubular, 0.22-0.32 mm in diameter, sometimes dichotomously branched. Peridium membranous, covered with a thick layer of yellow lime granules, usually forming a long crusted tail at the free end of the plasmodiocarp. Hypothallus crust-like, yellowish or bright yellow. Capillitium netted, strongly elastic, the threads colorless, with few small, yellow, fusiform lime nodes. Spores dark brown in mass, brown under transmitted light, globose, subglobose, 6.5-8 (-10.5) μm in diameter, minutely warted, with clustered warts.

Specimens examined: TAIWAN, Taipei City: Mt. Samoa, on dead wood, *Y.F. Chen11*, Aug. 6, 1995, *Y.F. Chen507*, Aug. 7, 1995. Pingtung County: Nanjen Lake, inside a tree hole of a dead wood, *Y.F. Chen255*, Jan. 31, 1996.

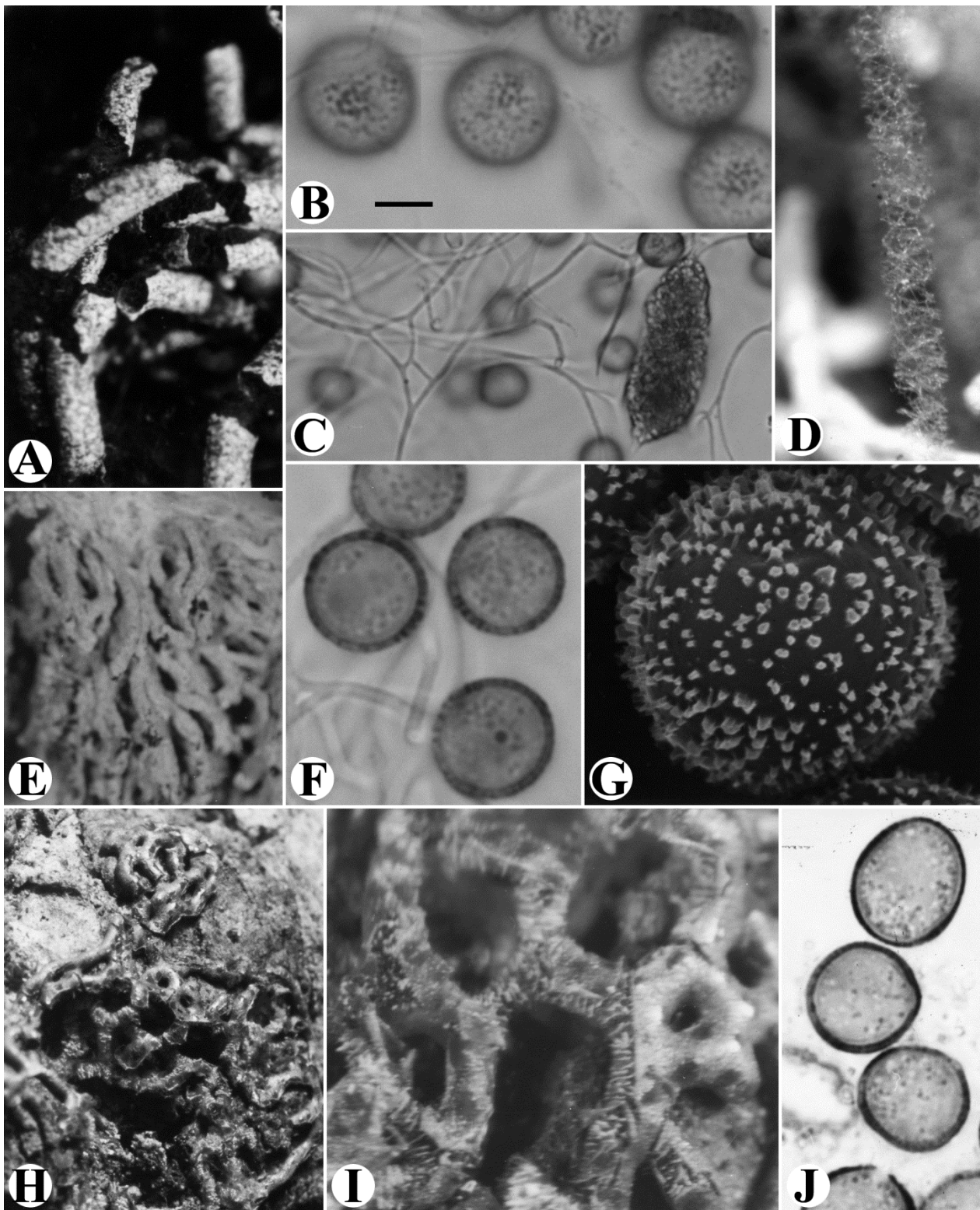


Fig. 2. A-G. *Fuligo aurea*. A & E: Fruiting bodies. B: Surface view of spores. C: Capillitial threads and lime node. D: Capillitium. F: Marginal view of spores. G: Surface markings of a spore, by SEM. H-J. *Willkommia reticulata*. H: Fruiting bodies. I: Dehiscent fruiting body. J: Spores. Scale bar: A = 320 μm ; B, F = 4 μm ; C = 10 μm ; D = 210 μm ; E = 0.77 mm; G = 1 μm ; H = 1 mm; I = 350 μm ; J = 5 μm .



The pendent tubular plasmodiocarps and the strongly elastic capillitium are the characteristics separating this species from other *Fuligo* species.

It was named under the genus *Erionema* as *E. aureum*. The three dimensional network of fruiting bodies resembles the small aethalia of *Fuligo septica* without a cortex, and it was then transferred to the genus *Fuligo* (Yamamoto, 1998).

Fuligo cinerea (Schwein.) Morgan, Journ. Cincinnati Soc. Nat. Hist. 19: 33. 1896.

Description and illustration: Chung and Liu (1997a).

Fuligo intermedia T. Macbr., N. Amer. Slime-Moulds ed. 2. 30. 1922.

It was reported in a list by Nakazawa (1929), but no specimen was deposited in Taiwan.

Fuligo septica (L.) F. H. Wigg., Prim. Fl. Holsat. 112. 1780.

Fuligo septica var. *flava* Pers., Roemers Neues Mag. Bot. I: 88. 1794.

Fuligo candida Pers., Obs. Myc. I: 92. 1796.

Fuligo septica var. *rosea* Nann.-Bremek., Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. Ser. C. 76: 485. 1973.

Description and illustration: Liu (1980).

Specimens examined: TAIWAN, Taipei City: main campus of National Taiwan Univ., on bark, *CHL B1478*, Apr. 30, 1998. Taipei County: Pinglin, on decayed hard wood, *CHL B2066*, May 21, 2000. Nantou County: Yuchih, on decayed hard wood, *CHL B45*, Nov. 26, 1979. Tainan City: on decayed wood, *CHL B608*, Aug. 4, 1986. Pingtung County: Nanjen Lake, on dead logs, *Y.F. Chen256*, Aug. 2, 1996.

Fuligo candida, *F. septica* var. *flava*, and *F. septica* var. *rosea*, previously reported from Taiwan (Chen et al., 2005) are distinguished from *F. septica* by colors of aethalia or lime nodes, but those varieties do not have other characteristics to separate them from the type var. *septica*. According to Martin and Alexopoulos (1969), the three should be confined in the synonyms under *F. septica*.

Leocarpus fragilis (Dickson) Rostaf., Sluzowce monogr. 132. 1874. Figs. 3A-H

Fructification sporangiate, crowded in clusters, 1.2-1.6 mm in total height. Sporangia shortly stipitate or sessile, ovoid to subglobose, 0.8-1.2 mm in diameter, yellowish brown. Peridium triple, the outer cartilaginous, smooth, shining, the middle thick and calcareous, the inner membranous, hyaline. Stalk weak, whitish or pale ochraceous. Hypothallus prominent, pale

yellow, wrinkled. Capillitium reticulate, duplex, composed of a network of rigid, calcareous nodes (badhamioid), particularly toward the outside, connected with a network of slender, colorless tubules. Spores blackish brown in mass, brown by transmitted light, minutely warted, 10-13 (-15) μ m in diameter. Plasmodium not observed.

Specimens examined: TAIWAN, Hualien County: Kuanyuan Forest Recreation Area, on fallen twig, *CHL B398*, *CHL B399*, Nov. 14, 1994.

It is a very distinctive species. The crowded and often clustered sporangia, the fragile, smooth and shining outer peridium, and the rigid, limy capillitium are the distinctive characters of this species.

Physarella oblonga (Berk. & M.A. Curtis.) Morgan, J. Cincinnati Soc. Nat. Hist. 19: 7. 1896. Figs. 3I-K

Description and illustration: Liu (1980).

Willkommlangea reticulata (Alb. & Schwein.) Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 2: 875. 1891. Figs. 2H-J

Cienkowskia reticulata (Alb. & Schwein.) Rostaf., Sluzowce monogr. 91. 1874.

Description and illustration: Liu (1982) and Chung and Liu (1997b).

The duplex capillitium is very conspicuous after the capillitium ruptured. This species is distinctive on the net-like plasmodiocarp, the limy peridium, and the scattered red spots on the peridium. It was first recorded (as *Cienkowskia reticulata*) from Taiwan in a list by Nakazawa (1929), and the species description here is based on the examination of the specimen *CHL M336* (Liu, 1982).

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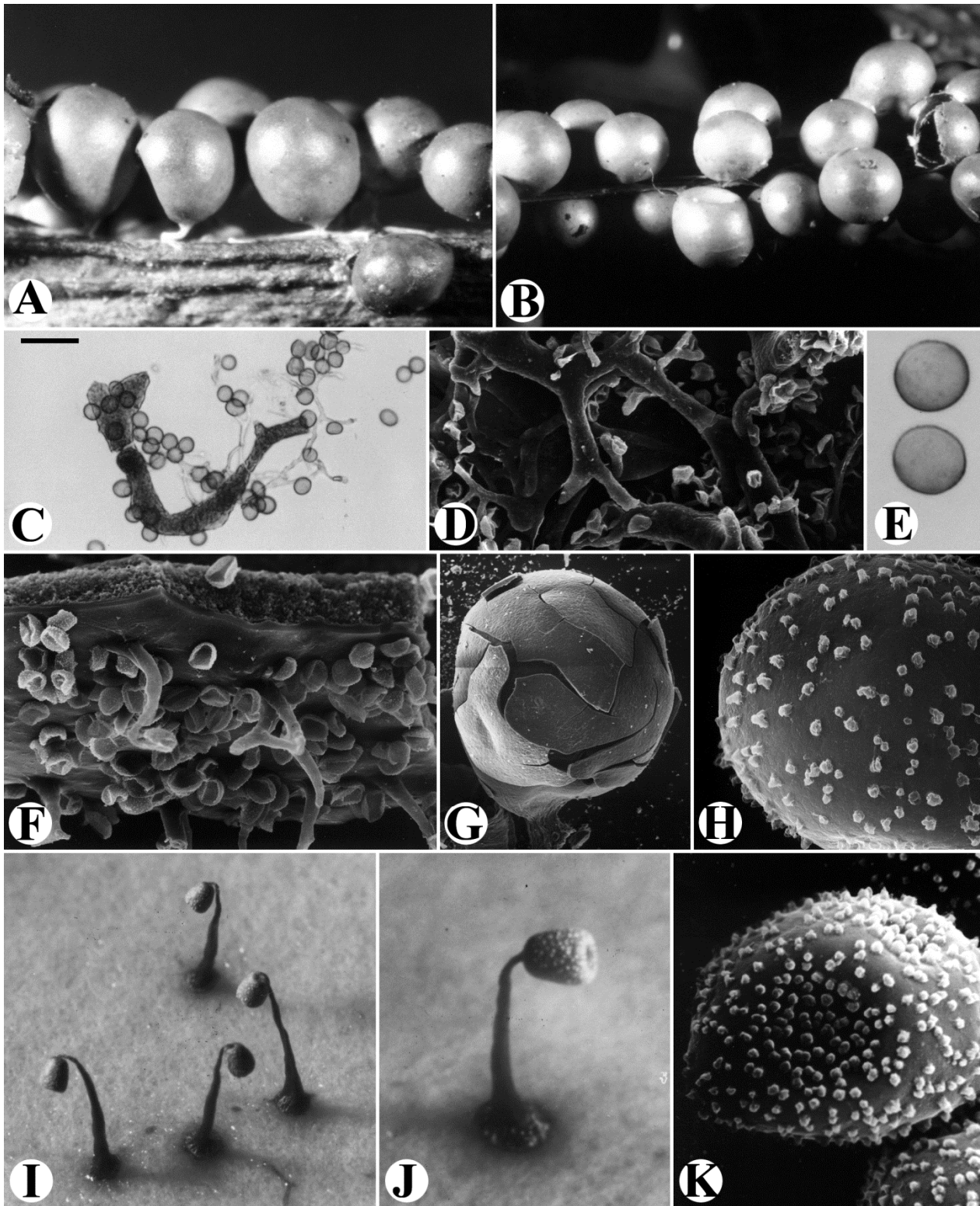


Fig. 3. A-H. *Leocarpus fragilis*. A-B: Fruiting bodies. C: Capillitium. D: Badhamioid network of capillitium, by SEM. E: Spores. F: Peridium of 3-layered, with spores and capillitium on the inside, by SEM. G: Broken sporangium, by SEM. H: Surface markings of one spore, by SEM. I-K. *Physarella oblonga*. I-J: Fruiting bodies. K: Surface markings of spores, by SEM. Scale bar: A = 0.53 mm; B = 0.77 mm; C = 40 μ m; D = 29 μ m; E = 9 μ m; F = 19 μ m; G = 265 μ m; H = 1.4 μ m; I = 1.8 mm; J = 0.9 mm; K = 1.1 μ m.



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台灣產絨泡黏菌科的六個屬

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摘要：本文重新整理台灣產絨泡黏菌科的六個黏菌屬，並且報導淨潔高杯黏菌 (*Craterium concinnum*) 和光果黏菌 (*Leocarpus fragilis*) 為兩個台灣新紀錄種；另外 *Craterium* sp. 疑為新種。內文並提供台灣已紀錄的鈣絲黏菌屬、高杯黏菌屬與煤絨黏菌屬的物種檢索表，與台灣已紀錄的絨泡黏菌科各屬的檢索表。

關鍵詞：真黏菌綱、絨泡黏菌科、臺灣、分類。