

ON CEROCORTICIUM P. HENN., A GENUS DESCRIBED FROM JAVA

W. JÜLICH

Rijksherbarium, Leiden

In 1899, P. Hennings described a new genus of 'Thelephoraceae', viz. *Cerocorticium*, based on two specimens collected by E. Nyman and M. Fleischer on Java. According to him these specimens represented two different species of his new genus.

The descriptions Hennings gave of the genus and the two species are rather poor and incorrect. His diagnosis of the genus runs: 'Resupinato-effusum, subgelatinosum, sicco ceraceum. Hymenium glabrum, laeve. Basidia conferta, subclavata, 2-sterigmatibus. Sporae ellipsoideae vel ovoideae, hyalinae.' (p. 138, in reprint p. 40). In a short discussion he declared the genus to be quite different from any *Corticium* because of the permanently 2-spored basidia and distinct from *Michenera* because of the absence of paraphyses. Contrary to this, examination of the type material revealed that the basidia are always 4-spored and paraphysoid hyphae are always present! The two species *C. bogoriense* P. Henn. and *C. tjibodense* P. Henn. are conspecific and nothing else but *Corticium ceraceum* Berk. & Rav., as already mentioned by von Höhnel (1910).

At the time of Hennings and von Höhnel the genus *Cerocorticium* seemed unnecessary since there was no reason for removing the two species from the main genus *Corticium*. But nowadays this genus has been split up in a large number of smaller genera, most of which are probably good. In this series of genera *Cerocorticium* P. Henn. has a clearly delimited place. The genus is characterized by ceraceous basidiocarps, large basidia and large inamyloid spores, as well as by the presence of paraphysoid hyphae between the basidia and clamp-connections at all septa. Up to now this genus is monotypic, but several other species of uncertain affinities will probably show to have their proper place in this genus.

The question that remains is, from which name the specific epithet has to be taken: from *Corticium molle* Berk. & Curt., *C. ceraceum* Berk. & Rav., or *C. armeniacum* Sacc.

Type material of *Corticium ceraceum* Berk. & Rav. was distributed in 1855 in Ravenel, *Fungi Carol. Exs. III*, 29 without any description, leaving the name a *nomen nudum*. The description was not published until 1890 by Masee. In the meantime (1868)

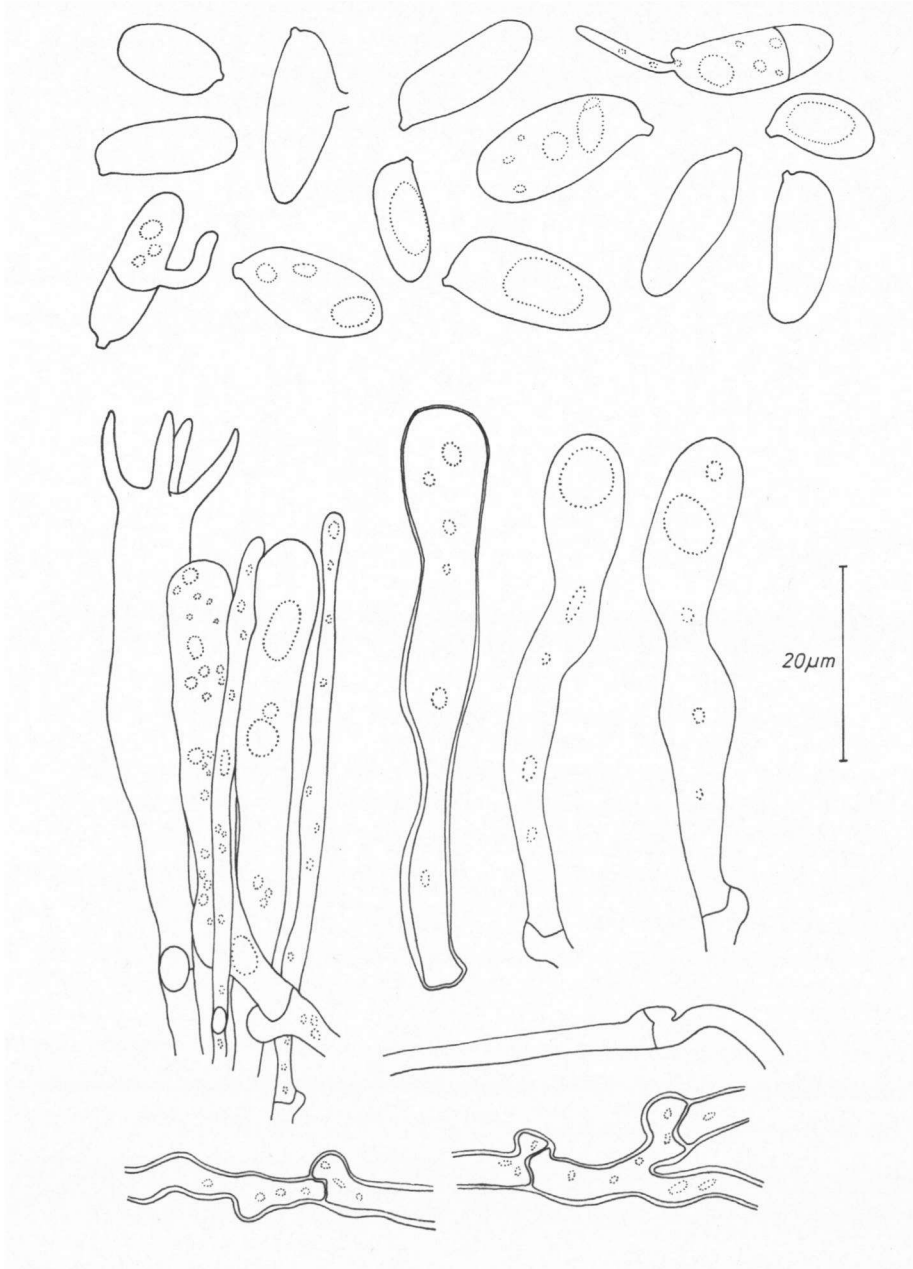


Fig. 1. *Cerocorticium molle* (Berk. & Curt.) Jülich. — Spores, paraphysoid hyphae, basidia (thin- or slightly thick-walled), and basal hyphae. (All Figs. from A. L. Welden, L 967.254-055).

Berkeley published a new name accompanied by a description for the species in question, viz. *Corticium molle* Berk. & Curt., based on material from Cuba. Some years later he redescribed the same species under the same name (1873). In 1874 Fries, obviously without any knowledge of the species published by Berkeley, transferred *Thelephora mollis* Fr. 1821, a quite different species, to *Corticium*. When Saccardo (1888) compiled the species descriptions for *Sylloge Fungorum* Vol. VI, he twice found the name *Corticium molle* and proposed for the younger epithet 'molle Berk. & Curt.' the new name *Corticium armeniacum* Sacc. It may be added that he did not accept the species 'molle Fr.' as belonging to *Corticium*, but placed it in the genus *Hypochnus*.

Since the name *Corticium molle* Berk. & Curt. is the oldest one available for the species in question, and since *Corticium molle* (Fr.) Fr. is a later homonym, the epithet 'molle Berk. & Curt.' is to be used in connection with *Cerocorticium*.

CEROCORTICIUM P. Henn.

Cerocorticium P. Henn. in O. Warburg, *Monsunia* 1: 138. 1899; in Engler & Prantl, *Natürl. PflFam.* 1(1^{xx}): 553. 1900. Type species: *Cerocorticium bogoriense* P. Henn. 1899 = *Corticium molle* Berk. & Curt. 1868.

Basidiocarp resupinate, effused, ceraceous. Hymenial surface more or less even, light coloured. Hyphal system monomitic. Hyphae hyaline, thin- or thick-walled, with clamp-connections. Paraphysoid hyphae present. Basidia large, clavate or broadly cylindrical, with a basal clamp. Spores hyaline, smooth, large, inamyloid, with a rather large apiculus, more or less thin-walled.

Scope: originally described with two species, up to now monotypic.

Cerocorticium molle (Berk. & Curt.) Jülich, *comb. nov.*

Corticium molle Berk. & Curt. in J. Linn. Soc. (Bot.) 10: 336. 1868 (basionym); not (Fr.) Fr. 1874.

Corticium armeniacum Sacc., *Sylloge Fung.* 6: 637. 1888.

Corticium ceraceum Berk. & Rav. *apud* Masee in J. Linn. Soc. (Bot.) 27: 150. 1890.

Cerocorticium bogoriense P. Henn. in O. Warburg, *Monsunia* 1: 139 (in reprint p. 41). 1899.

Cerocorticium tjibodense P. Henn. in O. Warburg, *Monsunia* 1: 139 (in reprint p. 41). 1899.

Corticium mauritianum Berk. in herb.

Basidiocarp resupinate, effused, adnate, hymenial part ceraceous, basal part as well as margin often more membranaceous. Hymenial surface even or slightly warty, yellowish-orange, not or only slightly cracked when dry. Hyphae hyaline, always with clamps, often with oily droplets in the cytoplasm, thin-walled and agglutinated in the hymenium, thick-walled (up to 1.3 μm) in base of context, often somewhat torulose and densely interwoven but not glued together, 2-4 μm in diameter. Paraphysoid hyphae hyaline, thin-walled, irregular-cylindrical, with some oily droplets in the cytoplasm and a basal clamp, 2-3 μm in diameter. Basidia hyaline, clavate, thin- or slightly thick-walled, with a basal clamp, 40-70 \times 7-9 μm , with four large and slightly curved sterigmata 7-10 \times 1.5-2.2 μm , contents of unripe basidia with some large or many small oily droplets. Spores hyaline, thin-walled,

smooth, often with oily contents, with large, conspicuous apiculus, $15-18 \times 5.9-7 \mu\text{m}$; germination mostly with one germ tube, often a secondary septum formed in spores concentrating the amount of cytoplasm.

CYTOLOGY.—Basal hyphae 2-nucleate.

REACTIONS.—No part of basidiocarp amyloid, dextrinoid or cyanophilous.

DISTRIBUTION.—Known from the southern parts of North America, Mexico, Cuba, North and South Africa, and Java.

MATERIAL STUDIED.—NORTH AMERICA, U.S.A.: Louisiana, St. Martinsville, 11 April 1898 and 14 March 1899, *A. B. Langlois* (S); Louisiana, Plaquemines par., Hebert Center, 12 March 1972, *A. L. Welden* (L); Ohio, C. G. Lloyd (S); South Carolina, *Ravenel* (=Ellis, N. Am. Fung. 607) (K, S).

CUBA: C. Wright (S). — Wright, Fung. Cub. 446 (K, S).

AFRICA: Algeria, Zambese, Torrend (S).

JAVA: without any dates, types of *Cerocorticium bogoriense* P. Henn. and *Cerocorticium tjibodense* P. Henn. (S).

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