LENTINUS CLITOCYBOIDES HENNINGS IS A *RUSSULA*

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SUMMARY — *Lentinus clitocyboides* Henn. is found to be conspecific with *Russula subfistulosa* var. *apsila*. The new combination *Russula clitocyboides* (Henn.) Verbeken & Buyck comb. nov. is proposed.

RÉSUMÉ — LENTINUS CLITOCYBOIDES HENNINGS EST UNE RUSSULE. Il est établi que *Lentinus clitocyboides* Henn. et *Russula subfistulosa* var. *apsila* sont conspécifiques. La nouvelle combinaison *Russula clitocyboides* (Henn.) Verbeken & Buyck comb. nov. est proposée.

INTRODUCTION

Hennings (1902) described *Lentinus clitocyboides* as a lignicolous agaricoid fungus with a macroscopical resemblance to *Clitocybe sessilis* Fr.. The holotype with the accompanying water colour of *Lentinus clitocyboides*, deposited at B, was later examined by Pilát (1936: 112) who provided a revised description. Pilát suggested that *Pleurotus* might be a more appropriate genus for this species because of the thin-walled hyphae and the entire edge of the lamellae. The holotype is now lost, probably destroyed by the fire of 1943 at B, and Pegler (1983: 229) studied the isotype collections deposited at PC and K for his world monograph of the genus *Lentinus*. He suggested that the material probably represents a *Lactarius* because of the typical amyloid spore ornamentation.

RESULTS

Our study of both isotypes confirms that the material represents a member of the *Russulaceae*, but since no pseudocystidia (sensu Buyck, 1991) are present in the hymenium *Lentinus clitocyboides* belongs obviously to *Russula* (Fig.1). It is identical to *Russula subfistulosa* var. *apsila* described by Buyck (1990) in his revision of the genus *Russula* in tropical Africa. The following new combination is thus proposed:

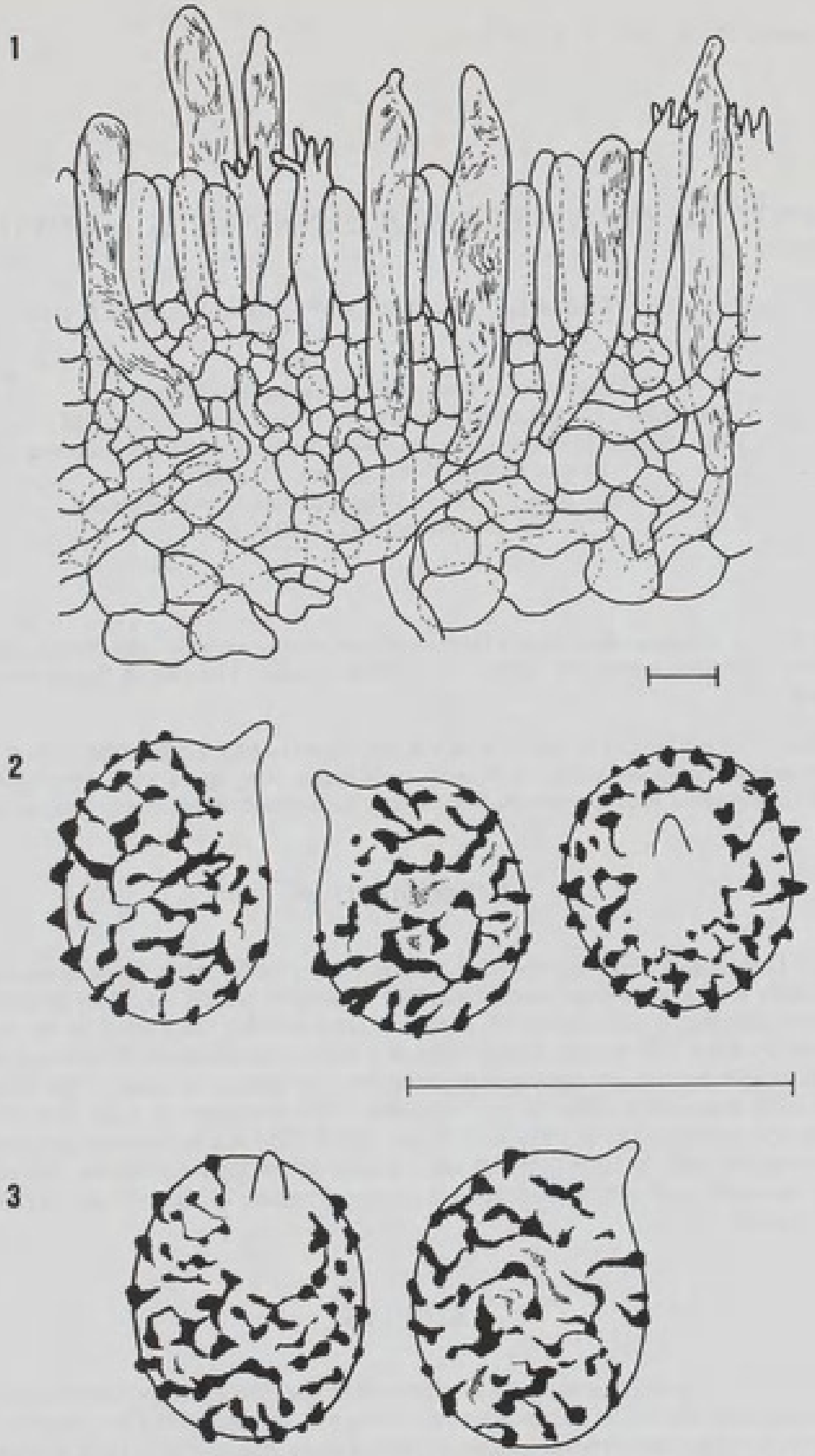

Fig. 1-3: *Russula clitocyboides*: 1. Hymenium, subhymenium and trama (*Watling* 24176); 2. spores (*Zenker* 1899); 3. spores (*Watling* 24176); bar = 10 µ

Russula clitocyboides (Henn.) Verbeken & Buyck **comb. nov.** — fig. 1-3.
basionym: *Lentinus clitocyboides* Henn., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 30: 45 (1902).
syn.: *Russula subfistulosa* Buyck var. *apsila* Buyck, Bull. Jard. Bot. Belg. 60: 193 (1990).
illustr.: Buyck 1993: 385, fig. 242, plate 60.2, as *R. subfistulosa* var. *apsila*; scale of water colours = "x 2", not "x 1" as indicated)

Revised description

Pileus 4-6 cm diam., firm, depressed to almost applanate, sometimes umbilicate; pellis mat, humid but never viscid, non-hygrophanous, sometimes slightly squamulose, brownish grey to dark snuff brown, darkening towards margin, becoming milky coffee-coloured when older. *Stipe* 3-5 x 0,5-1 cm, solid, becoming more or less fistulous when older, cylindric, finely felty, greyish brown, dull pale snuff brown. *Lamellae* slightly decurrent, narrow (1 mm), pale cream-colour to pale greyish or yellowish grey; edge entire. *Context* white, slowly and slightly reddish just underneath the stipitipellis. Spore print colour unknown.

Spores ellipsoid, ornamentation of obtuse warts usually aligned in short ridges or connected by fine lines into a very partial to almost complete reticulum, 5.9-6.8-7.3-8.1 x 5.0-5.7-6.2-6.7 µm (Q = 1.11-1.17-1.19-1.23 (1.32)); suprahilar plage distinct, not amyloid. For other microscopic features see Buyck (1993).

Distribution

Cameroon: CENTRAL SOUTHERN PROV., Bipindi, on rotten wood, Sept. 1898, *Zenker* 1899 (isotypi K, PC); SOUTH WESTERN PROV., Korup Nat. Park, near Mundema, rainforest, transect P, 33-50 m alt., March 1991, *Watling* 24176 (E, as *Lactarius pellucidus*); ibid., transect P from river Mara, March 1991, *Watling* 24208 (E, as *Lactarius phlebonemus* f. *brunneus*).

Zaire: EQUATOR PROV., Binga, 300 m alt., drier rainforest with *Gilbertiodendron dewevrei*, Sept. 1938, *Goossens-Fontana* 2099c et icon. (holotypus *Russula subfistulosa* var. *apsila*, BR); UPPER KATANGA PROV., Kipopo, between debris on soil in dry evergreen forest ('Muhulu'), March 1959, Schmitz-Levecq 123 (BR, as *Lactarius* sp.).

DISCUSSION

1.The short diagnoses published by Hennings and Buyck for this taxon are here supplemented with field data from Watling. The description of *Russula subfistulosa* var. *apsila* was based on an aquarel not accompanied by field notes.

As the specific epithet suggests, the habit of *Russula clitocyboides* reminds one of *Clitocybe*-like agarics because of the strongly depressed cap and the numerous, decurrent lamellae. More specifically, *Russula clitocyboides* resembles *Pseudoclitocybe*

cyathiformis (Bull.: Fr.) Singer according to Watling's field notes or *Clitocybe sessilis* according to Hennings. This clitocyboid habit combined with the brittle nature, so typical of the heteromerous context of Russulales, explains why this *Russula* is often taken in the field for a *Lactarius*, in spite of the absence of latex.

2. *Russula clitocyboides* belongs to section *Fistulosae* subsection *Fistulosinae* R. Heim ex Singer. The species especially differs from *R. subfistulosa* Buyck in the much darker basidiomata with a strongly depressed cap and decurrent lamellae. Also the ecology of both species is very different : *Russula clitocyboides* occurs in the dryer parts of the *Gilbertiodendron dewevrei* rain forest and in dry evergreen forest ('muhulu'), whereas *R. subfistulosa* is only known from *Brachystegia* woodland ('miombo').

collection	length x width (µm)	length/width ratio
Zenker 1899	6.0-6.9-7.8 x 5.2-5.8-6.7	1.11-1.17-1.25
Watling 24208	(6.3)6.5-7.3-8.1 x 5.6-6.2-6.7	1.08-1.18-1.32
Watling 24176	5.9-6.8-7.8 x 5.0-5.7-6.5	1.11-1.18-1.30
Goos.-Font. 2099c	6.6-7.1-7.8 x 5.5-5.9-6.5	1.12-1.19-1.23
total (n=80)	**6.2-7.0-7.9 x 5.3-5.9-6.6**	**1.10-1.18-1.28**

Table 1. Comparison of spore measurements for individual collections (based on 20 spores/specimen, Q = length/width ratio.

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