

A checklist of smut fungi of Croatia

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ABSTRACT - A list of smut fungi (*Ustilaginomycotina* p.p. and *Pucciniomycotina*: *Microbotryales*) recorded in Croatia from 1897 to 2011 is given. In total, 41 smut species belonging to 13 genera found on 41 host plant species have been recorded in Croatia. Additionally, four smut specimens were reported that could not be determined to species level. Five species are newly reported for Croatia: *Macalpinomyces neglectus*, *Sphacelotheca hydropiperis*, *Urocystis poae*, *Ustilago striiformis*, and *Ustilago trichophora*.

KEY WORDS – *Microbotryales*, *Ustilaginomycotina*, diversity, taxonomy

Introduction

The study of smut fungi (*Ustilaginomycotina* p.p. and *Pucciniomycotina*: *Microbotryales*) in Croatia was influenced by changing socio-economic conditions that impacted scientific mycology and plant pathology. Scientific mycology in Croatia developed during the late 19th century when Croatia was a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and lasted until the end of World War I. In this period, German, Austrian, Hungarian and Czech botanists and mycologists collected and described a relatively high number of fungi from areas they visited during their studies, and which are a part of the current Croatia. Unfortunately, most of the materials collected by Beck (1897), Jaap (1916) or Moesz (1938) has either been lost or deposited in herbaria outside Croatia.

Between 1919 and 1945, the Croatian Škorić (1928) and the Czech Picbauer (1928) studied smut fungi and described several species found in the territory of today's Croatia.

Following World War II, Croatia became a federal republic of socialistic Yugoslavia. In 1950, Vojtech Lindtner published the “Smuts of Yugoslavia”, a capital work that summarized the research on smut fungi in all parts of the former Yugoslavia. In Lindtner’s work, a list of all Croatian smut species was recorded. Lindtner’s (1950) “Smuts of Yugoslavia” is often cited in lists of smut fungi occurring in Europe, but without precisely quoting the republic from which a certain species was recorded. For that reason, most of the records are designated as from “former Yugoslavia”.

After Lindtner (1950), the work on plant pathogenic fungi focused on economically important smuts on cereals, with very few mycological papers dealing with the smut fungi. This continued after 1991, when Croatia became an independent state.

Many of the smut fungi found in Croatia are recorded under older names not consistent with current taxonomy. The aim of this study was to provide the first checklist of smut fungi recorded to this date in Croatia, with some new records and newly collected specimens preserved in the national fungal herbarium (CNF).

Materials and methods

The following list of smut fungi recorded in Croatia is primarily based on literature. Lindtner (1950) and Vasiljević (1991) provided the main source of data on smut fungi recorded from 1888 to 1989, while records between 1990 and 2011 were based on a comprehensive study of published sources dealing with mycology or plant pathology. Names of fungal and plant species were corrected according to current taxonomy. Fungal taxa were named following Bauer et al. (2008), Denchev et al. (2009) and Vánky (1994, 2001, 2005). Taxonomy is also consistent with the recently published world monograph of smut fungi (Vánky 2012). In addition to literature studies, specimens of nine smut species have been collected between 2007 and 2011 and deposited in the Croatian National Fungarium (CNF) and the Herbarium Tbingense (TUB). These species were identified according to Vánky (1994), based on their host plants and the morphology of teliospores. To confirm identification, morphology of teliospores was compared to the following reference specimens of the herbarium of the Karl Franzens University of Graz (GZU): *Macalpinomyces neglectus* 289729, *Sphacelotheca hydropiperis* 289727, *Sporisorium andropogonis* 289725, *Urocystis anemones* 289724, *Urocystis poae* 289728, *Ustilago cynodontis* 289730, *Ustilago striiformis* 289723, and *Ustilago trichophora* 289726.

Results

A total of 41 species of smut fungi were recorded in Croatia from 1897 to 2011. Five of these were recorded and collected for the first time during the present study: *Macalpinomyces neglectus*, *Sphacelotheca hydropiperis*, *Urocystis poae*, *Ustilago striiformis*, and *Ustilago trichophora*. Among the smuts recorded, *Ustilago* species are the most numerous (nine species), followed by *Entyloma* (six species), *Urocystis* (six species), and *Tilletia* (five species). Additionally, four smut specimens were reported which could not be determined to species level because of the lack of the original material. The list of species follows.

Antherospora vaillantii (Tul. & C. Tul.) R. Bauer, M. Lutz, Begerow,
Piątek & Vánky
(Jaap, 1916, on *Muscari comosum* (L.) Mill. and *Muscari racemosum*
(L.) Mill. = *Muscari neglectum* Guss. ex Ten., as *Ustilago vaillantii*
Tul. & C. Tul.;
Škoric, 1928; Moesz, 1938, on *Muscari comosum* (L.) Mill., as *Ustilago*
vaillantii Tul. & C. Tul.)

Anthracoidea humilis Vánky
(Picbauer, 1928, on *Carex humilis* Leyss., as *Cintractia caricis* (Pers.)
Magnus)

Anthracoidea sempervirentis Vánky
(Beck, 1897, on *Carex laevis* Kit. = *Carex kitaibeliana* Degen ex Bech.,
as *Cintractia caricis* (Pers.) Magnus)

Entyloma crepidis-rubrae (Jaap) Liro
(Jaap, 1916, on *Crepis rubra* L., as *Entyloma crepidicola* Trotter var.
crepidis-rubrae Jaap)

Entyloma ficariae A.A. Fisch. Waldh.
(Jaap, 1916, on *Ficaria verna* Huds. = *Ranunculus ficaria* L., as
Entyloma ranunculi (Bonord.) J. Schröt.)

Entyloma fuscum J. Schröt.
(Picbauer, 1928, on *Glaucium flavum* Crantz)

Entyloma henningsianum Syd. & P. Syd.
(Jaap, 1916, on *Samolus valerandi* L.)

Entyloma mediterraneum Syd. & P. Syd. ex Cif.
(Jaap, 1916, on *Pallenis spinosa* (L.) Cass., as *Entyloma calendulae*
(Oudem.) de Bary)

Entyloma rhagadioli Pass.
(Jaap, 1916, on *Rhagadiolus stellatus* (L.) Gaertn.)

Farysia jaapii Syd. & P. Syd.
(Jaap, 1916, on *Carex caryophyllea* Latourr., as *Stilbella olivacea* Jaap)
NOTE: *F. jaapii* is only known from this type collection (e.g. Vánky,
2012).

Macalpinomyces neglectus (Niessl) Vánky
MATERIAL EXAMINED: On *Setaria viridis* (L.) P. Beauv., Croatia, Zagreb,
27.10.2009, leg. et det.: D. Ivić (CNF 7/23)
NOTE: New to Croatia.

Microbotryum lychnidis-dioicae (DC. ex Liro) G. Deml & Oberw.

MATERIAL EXAMINED: On *Silene latifolia* ssp. *alba* (Mill.) Greut. & Burdet, Croatia, Pula, 23.08.2007, leg. et det.: M. Lutz (TUB 019003)
(Previous records: Jaap, 1916, on *Silene latifolia* ssp. *alba*, as *Ustilago violacea* (Pers.) Roussel)

Microbotryum shykoffianum T. Giraud, Denchev & M.E. Hood

(Picbauer, 1928; Jaap, 1916, on *Dianthus sylvestris* Wulfen, as *Ustilago violacea* (Pers.) Roussel)

Microbotryum silenes-inflatae (DC. ex Liro) G. Deml & Oberw.

(Jaap, 1916, on *Silene vulgaris* (Moench) Garcke, as *Ustilago violacea* (Pers.) Roussel)

***Microbotryum* sp.**

(Beck, 1897, on *Silene multicaulis* Guss., as *Ustilago violacea* (Pers.) Roussel;
Liro, 1924, on *Silene waldsteinii* Griseb., as *Ustilago violacea* (Pers.) Roussel;
Liro, 1924, on *Silene italicica* (L.) Pers., as *Ustilago violacea* (Pers.) Roussel)

Schizonella melanogramma (DC.) J. Schröt.

(Picbauer, 1928, on *Carex pilulifera* L.)

Sphacelotheca hydropiperis (Schumach.) De Bary

MATERIAL EXAMINED: On *Polygonum minus* Hudson, Croatia, Zagreb, 01.10.2009, leg. et det.: D. Ivić (CNF 7/24)

NOTE: New to Croatia.

Sporisorium andropogonis (Opiz) Vánky

MATERIAL EXAMINED: On *Dichanthium ischaemum* (L.) Roberty, Croatia, Pag, 02.09.2009, leg. et. det.: D. Ivić (CNF 7/25)
(Previous records: Jaap, 1916, on *Andropogon ischaemum* L. = *Dichanthium ischaemum* (L.) Roberty, as *Ustilago ischaemi* Fuckel)

Sporisorium destruens (Schltdl.) Vánky

(Škorić, 1928, on *Panicum miliaceum* L., as *Sphacelotheca panici-miliacei* (Pers.) Bubák)

Sporisorium reilianum (J.G. Kühn) Langdon & Full.

(Kišpatić, 1948b, on *Zea mays* L., as *Sorosporium reilianum* (J.G. Kühn) McAlpine;
Jurković et al., 2001, on *Sorghum halepense* Pers., as *Sorosporium reilianum* (J.G. Kühn) McAlpine)

***Sporisorium* sp.**

(Jaap, 1916, on *Cymbopogon hirtus* (L.) Thomson = *Hyparrhenia hirta* (L.) Stapf, as *Ustilago ischaemi* Fuckel)

Thecaphora affinis W.G. Schneid. ex A.A. Fisch. Waldh.

(Moesz, 1938, on *Astragalus glycyphyllos* L.)

Thecaphora melandrii (Syd.) Vánky & M. Lutz

(Jaap, 1916, on *Silene vulgaris* (Moench) Garcke, as *Sorosporium saponariae* Rud.)

Tilletia brachypodii-ramosii H. Zogg

(Jaap, 1916, on *Brachypodium ramosum* (L.) Roem. & Schult., as *Tilletia olida* (Riess) G. Winter)

Tilletia caries (DC.) Tul. & C. Tul.

(common on cultivated wheat; recorded by Škorić, 1928; Borjan, 1938; Potočanac, 1948; Minev, 1951, as *Tilletia triticoides* Sávul.; Milohnić, 1958; Cvjetković, 1987; Cvjetković et al., 1999; Čizmić et al., 2003; on *Triticum aestivum* L.)

Tilletia controversa J.G. Kühn s. lato

(Kišpatić, 1948a, on *Hordeum hexastichon* L. = *Hordeum vulgare* L., as *Tilletia pancicii* Bubák & Ranoj.; Lušin, 1954, on *Triticum aestivum* L., as *Tilletia brevifaciens* G.W. Fisch.; Moesz, 1938, on *Agropyron intermedium* (Host) P. Beauv. = *Elymus hispidus* (Opiz) Melderis)

Tilletia laevis J.G. Kühn

(Minev, 1951; Cvjetković, 1987; on *Triticum aestivum* L.)

Tilletia laevis* × *Tilletia caries

(Minev, 1951, on *Triticum aestivum* L., as *Tilletia intermedia* (Gassner) Sávul.)

Urocystis anemones (Pers.) G. Winter

MATERIAL EXAMINED: On *Anemone nemorosa* L., Croatia, Vrbovsko, 21.05.2010, leg. et det.: D. Ivić (CNF 7/26)

(Previous records: Škorić, 1928, on *Anemone nemorosa* L., as *Tuburcinia anemones* (Pers.) Liro)

Urocystis ficariae (Liro) Moesz

(Moesz, 1938, on *Ficaria verna* Huds. = *Ranunculus ficaria* L., as *Tuburcinia ficariae* (Unger) Liro)

Urocystis floccosa (Wallr.) D.M. Hend.

(Picbauer, 1928, on *Helleborus viridis* L., as *Tuburcinia hellebore-viridis* (DC.) Liro)

Urocystis muscaridis (Niessl) Moesz

(Jaap, 1916, on *Muscari comosum* (L.) Mill. and *Muscari racemosum* (L.) Mill. = *Muscari neglectum* Guss. ex Ten., as *Urocystis colchici* (Schltdl.) Rabenh.)

Urocystis poae (Liro) Padwick & A. Khan

MATERIAL EXAMINED: On *Poa nemoralis* L., Croatia, Zagreb, 25.08.2009, leg. et det.: D. Ivić (CNF 7/27)

NOTE: New to Croatia.

Urocystis ranunculi (Lib.) Moesz

(Picbauer, 1930, on *Ranunculus sardous* Crantz, as *Tuburcinia ranunculi* (Lib.) Liro)

Ustilago avenae (Pers.) Rostr.

(Jaap, 1916, "in anthers of *Avena sativa*"; Milatović, 1967, on *Hordeum vulgare* L., as *Ustilago nigra* Tapke)

Ustilago bromivora (Tul. & C. Tul.) A.A. Fisch. Waldh.

(Jaap, 1916; Moesz, 1938, on *Bromus madritensis* L.)

Ustilago cynodontis (Henn.) Henn.

MATERIAL EXAMINED: On *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers., Croatia, Pag, 01.09.2009, leg. et det.: D. Ivić (CNF 7/28)

(Previous records: Sydow & Sydow, 1903, on *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers.)

Ustilago hordei (Pers.) Lagerh.

(Jaap, 1916; Milatović, 1967; on *Hordeum vulgare* L.; Potočanac, 1948, on *Avena sativa* L., as *Ustilago levis* (Kellerm. & Swingle) Magnus)

Ustilago maydis (DC.) Corda

(common on maize; recorded by Škorić, 1928; Moesz, 1938; Potočanac, 1948; Milatović, 1948; Kišpatić, 1984; Palaveršić, 1985; Kišpatić, 1988; on *Zea mays* L.)

Ustilago nuda (J.L. Jensen) Kellerm. & Swingle

(Škorić, 1928; Milatović, 1967; on *Hordeum vulgare* L.)

Ustilago striiformis (Westend.) Niessl

MATERIAL EXAMINED: On *Lolium perenne* L., Croatia, Ivanić-Grad, 08.05.2008, leg. et det.: D. Ivić (CNF 7/29); on *Holcus lanatus* L.,

Croatia, Ivanić-Grad, 08.05.2008, leg. et det.: D. Ivić (CNF 7/30); on *Arrhenatherum elatius* (L.) P. Beauv. ex J. Presl & C. Presl, Croatia, Ivanić-Grad, 08.05.2008, leg. et det.: D. Ivić (CNF 7/31)

NOTE: New to Croatia.

***Ustilago trichophora* (Link) Körn.**

MATERIAL EXAMINED: On *Echinochloa crus-galli* (L.) Beauv., Croatia, Čakovec, 22.09.2007, leg. et det.: D. Ivić (CNF 7/32)

NOTE: New to Croatia.

***Ustilago tritici* (Pers.) Rostr.**

(Jaap, 1916, on *Triticum* sp.; Potočanac, 1948; Milohnić, 1958; Kišpatić, 1980; on *Triticum aestivum* L.)

Discussion

Considering the Croatian flora, which comprises about 5600 plant species and subspecies (Nikolić, 2001), it could be concluded that the number of 41 smut species recorded so far is relatively small. In comparison, in the much smaller Slovenia with about 3200 plant species, Lutz & Vánky (2009) recently reported 72 smut species. Without taking into account the five new records, it can be seen that as few as 32 smut species were recorded in Croatia between 1897 and 1950. From Lindtner's publication (1950) until 2011, only three smuts new to Croatia have been determined: *Tilletia laevis*, *T. laevis* × *T. caries*, and *Ustilago avenae* (Minev, 1951; Milatović, 1967; Cvjetković, 1987). Such results clearly show that research on smut fungi was stifled in the former Yugoslavia. In a socialistic society, the work on smuts was focused only on economically important pathogens of cultivated cereals, with the main focus on their control. During this period, relatively numerous records of *Tilletia* and *Ustilago* species in Croatia can be found, but generally without further investigation.

Once discontinued, it is obvious that research on smut fungi was hard to re-establish. From 1991, when Croatia became an independent state, to 2011, there has not been any record of smut species new to Croatia, and no relevant mycological papers dealing with this group of fungi were published.

It is clear that smut fungi in Croatia have been considerably under-recorded and remain inadequately known. The establishment of the Croatian National Fungarium, a central herbarium where fungal specimens can be deposited, should result in more smuts recorded and collected in Croatia in the future.

Host – Fungus Index

- Anemone nemorosa* – *Urocystis anemones*
Arrhenatherum elatius – *Ustilago striiformis*
Astragalus glycyphyllos – *Thecaphora affinis*
Avena sativa – *Ustilago hordei*
Brachypodium ramosum – *Tilletia brachypodii-ramosii*
Bromus madritensis – *Ustilago bromivora*
Carex caryophyllea – *Farysia jaapii*
Carex humilis – *Anthracoidea humilis*
Carex kitaibeliana – *Anthracoidea sempervirentis*
Carex pilulifera – *Schizonella melanogramma*
Crepis rubra – *Entyloma crepidis-rubrae*
Cynodon dactylon – *Ustilago cynodontis*
Dianthus sylvestris – *Microbotryum shykoffianum*
Dichanthium ischaemum – *Sporisorium andropogonis*
Echinochloa crus-galli – *Ustilago trichophora*
Elymus hispidus – *Tilletia controversa* s. lato
Glaucium flavum – *Entyloma fuscum*
Helleborus viridis – *Urocystis floccosa*
Holcus lanatus – *Ustilago striiformis*
Hordeum vulgare – *Tilletia controversa* s. lato, *Ustilago avenae*, *U. hordei*,
U. nuda
Hyparrhenia hirta – *Sporisorium* sp.
Lolium perenne – *Ustilago striiformis*
Muscaria comosum – *Antherospora vaillantii*, *Urocystis muscaridis*
Muscaria neglectum – *Antherospora vaillantii*, *Urocystis muscaridis*
Polygonum minus – *Sphacelotheca hydropiperis*
Ranunculus ficaria – *Entyloma ficariae*, *Urocystis ficariae*
Ranunculus sardous – *Urocystis ranunculi*
Rhagadiolus stellatus – *Entyloma rhagadioli*
Samolus valerandi – *Entyloma henningssianum*
Setaria viridis – *Macalpinomyces neglectus*
Silene italica – *Microbotryum* sp.
Silene latifolia spp. *alba* – *Microbotryum lychnidis-dioicae*
Silene multicaulis – *Microbotryum* sp.
Silene vulgaris – *Microbotryum silenes-inflatae*, *Thecaphora melandrii*
Silene waldsteinii – *Microbotryum* sp.
Sorghum halepense – *Sporisorium reilianum*
Triticum aestivum – *Tilletia caries*, *T. controversa* s. lato, *T. laevis*,
T. laevis × *T. caries*, *Ustilago tritici*
Zea mays – *Sporisorium reilianum*, *Ustilago maydis*

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