

PUCCINIA THYMI

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The common microcyclic rust fungus on *Thymus* species in Europe has usually been referred to as *Puccinia caulincola* Schneider or *Puccinia schneideri* Schroeter. Unfortunately both these names are pre-dated by *Aecidium thymi* Fuckel which appeared in *Fungi rhenani* No. 2113 in 1868. In spite of the generic name used, Fuckel's material bears telia and teliospores typical of *P. schneideri*.

The Sydows in *Monographia Uredinearum* mention *Aecidium thymi* but seem to have been misled by Bubak's statement (in *Centralblatt Bakt. Abt. II*, 1902 p. 126) that *Aecidium thymi* Fuckel is an aecidial state of *Puccinia stipina*. The mistake has been in coupling Fuckel's binomial to the *Stipa* rust for the connection between aecidia on Labiatae including *Thymus* and uredinia and telia on *Stipa* is well authenticated and the races on *Thymus* extend into western Europe.

Fuckel's description in *Fungi rhenani* 2113 runs "Sacculis sparsis, hemisphaericis, demum laceratis, albidis; sporidis majusculis, rotundatis, fuscis, 18-19 Mik. diam. Ad Thymi Serpylli var. angustifol. folia, rarissime. Vere. In pinetis ca. Budenheim." While it would be tempting to suggest that Fuckel would not have confused a telium for an aecidium the confusion is quite readily understood, for the sori in *Fungi rhenani* 2113 are very like aecidia, the telia are pustulate, seated on red spots. The very fact that the mistake has persisted for so long speaks for the ease with which the sori are considered aecidia until they are examined microscopically. Moreover, there is no evidence that Fuckel can have based his description on other collections before him at the time for in his later *Symbolae Mycologicae* he cites no additional collections nor any other rust fungus on *Thymus*. All the evidence points to his having the one collection in front of him which he thought an aecidium and that he missed the two-celled teliospores. The following new combination is thus necessary.

***Puccinia thymi* (Fuckel) Henderson, comb. nov.**

Basionym: *Aecidium thymi* Fuckel, *Fungi rhenani* No. 2113 (1868).

Syn.: *Puccinia schneideri* Schroet. in Schneid., *Herb. Schles. Pilze* 448 (1879).