

**TREMELLA COPPINSII, A NEW LICHENICOLOUS
BASIDIOMYCETE FROM SARAWAK**

PAUL DIEDERICH* & GUY MARSON**

During an expedition in Sarawak, Dr Brian Coppins collected several samples of *Platismatia regenerans* W. L. Culb. & C. F. Culb. with an unknown lichenicolous *Tremella* species.

***Tremella coppinsii* Diederich & Marson, sp. nov.** (Fig. 1).

Basidiomata lichenicola, dispersa, in thallus *Platismatia regenerantis* crescentia, pulviniformia, aurantiaca, tremelloidea, in sicco cornea et atra, 0.3-0.7 mm diam.; superficies rugosa. Hymenium hyalinum, in potassio lutescens, ex textura gelatinosa constans. Hyphae fibulatae. Hypobasidia subglobosa, ellipsoidea vel ovoidea, 8-13 \times 4-8 μ m, 2-4-cellularia. Basidiosporae subglobosae, guttulae, 6.5-7.5 \times 4-6 μ m. Cellulae conidiogenae 7-10 \times 2-4 μ m. Conidia subglobosa vel ovalia, 2.5-5 \times 1.5-3 μ m.

Holotype: Sarawak, Gunong Mulu National Park, 4th Division, Baram District, Gunong Mulu, summit, alt. 2325 m, on *Platismatia regenerans*, 27 iv 1978, Coppins 5011 (E). Isotype: herb. Diederich.

Basidiocarps parasymbiotic, scattered on the thallus of *Platismatia regenerans*, pulvinate, reddish orange, gelatinous, drying horny and becoming black, 0.3-0.7 mm diam.; surface rugose. Hymenium hyaline, becoming yellow with KOH, consisting of textura gelatinosa. Internal hyphae with clamp connections, thick-walled, 2.5-3.5 μ m diam. or thin-walled, 1 μ m diam. Hypobasidia subglobose, ellipsoid or ovate, 8-13 \times 4-8 μ m, becoming 2-4-celled by longitudinal septa, the cells often unequal in size. Epibasidia 1-3 μ m thick, shrunken in herbarium material. Basidiospores subglobose, with oil drops, sometimes germinating by repetition, (5.5-6.5-7.5(-9) \times 4-6 μ m. Conidiogenous cells 7-10 \times 2-4 μ m. Conidia subglobose to oval, 2.5-5 \times 1.5-3 μ m.

Tremella coppinsii is easily separated from the only hitherto known lichenicolous *Tremella* species, *T. lichenicola* Diederich, by the colour of the basidiocarps, the much smaller 4-celled basidia, the smaller basidiospores, the hyphae with clamp connections and the host (Diederich, 1986:2-5). The only fungicolous *Tremella* species with small orange basidiocarps, 4-celled basidia and clamp connections is *T. versicolor* Berk. & Br. This species has, however, larger aggregated basidiocarps (2-3 mm diam.), spherical basidia and different hosts (*Aleurodiscus lividocoeruleus* (Karst.) Lemke and *Peniophora nuda* (Fr.) Bres.) (Jülich, 1984:426).

The new *Tremella* seems to be frequent in the area of the host (i.e. the high mountains of Sarawak, Borneo) whose thallus is not damaged.

Tremella coppinsii is named in honour of Dr Brian Coppins who discovered this fungus during the Royal Geographical Society Mulu Expedition 1977-78, and who was also the first to mention the presence of a *Tremella* species (*T. lichenicola*) on *Mycoblastus sterilis* Coppins & James (Coppins & James, 1979:161).

*Route de Luxembourg, 93, L-7373 Lorentzweiler, G.D. of Luxembourg.

**Ceinture des Rosiers, 22, L-2446 Howald, G.D. of Luxembourg.

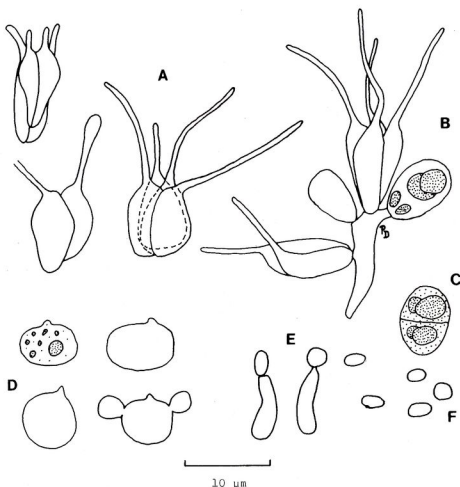


FIG. 1. *Tremella coppinsii* (holotype): A, basidia; B, two young and two mature basidia; C, young basidium; D, basidiospores, one germinating by repetition; E, conidiogenous cells with conidia; F, conidia.

Other specimens examined:

SARAWAK. Gunong Mulu National Park, 4th Division, Baram District, Gunong Mulu, by main path on west ridge below summit, alt. 2000m, 1978, *Coppins* 5009 (E); *ibid.*, first knoll along ridge to SE of summit, 1978, *Coppins* 5015 (E).

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