

## *Mycena picta* n. comb., an agaric new to Finland

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The rare *Agaricus pictus* Fr. (Agaricales, Tricholomataceae) has been found by the author for the first time in Finland, in some southern localities. Its main characters are briefly described, and the new combination *Mycena picta* (Fr.) Harmaja is made.

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### *Mycena picta* (Fr.) Harmaja n. comb.

*Agaricus pictus* Fr., Syst. mycol. 1: 166. 1821. — *Omphalia picta* (Fr.) Gillet, Les Champignons: 299. 1878. — *Xeromphalina picta* (Fr.) A.H. Smith, Pap. Michigan Acad. Sci. Arts Lett. 38: 76. 1953. — *Illustr.*: Fries: Icones sel. Hymenomyc. I, pl. 77: 4.

*Pileus* ca. 0.3—0.6 cm high and ca. 0.2—0.4 cm in diameter (becoming larger?), cylindrical, with narrow central depression, with radiate grooves, weakly hygrophanous, translucent-striate up to centre, dark brown both when fresh and when dry, except for the fulvous margin; surface glabrous, apparently dry; margin usually slightly curved outwards.

*Stipe* ca. 2—3 × 0.05—0.1 cm, filiform, apex slightly enlarged, fulvous throughout or upper part black-brown, rigid; surface glabrous, apparently dry; base connected to the substrate with a verticil of radiate fulvous mycelial hairs, whose bases may be (are always?) flattened to form a membranous basal disc.

*Lamellae* adnate at about right angles, broader than long (i.e. 'high'), pale buff with a darker, pale fulvous, edge.

*Odour* not distinct.

*Context* very thin, milk apparently lacking.

*Spores* 6.0—8.0 × 3.5—4.2 μm, the great majority single (not stuck together in tetrads) in mounts of dried lamellae, apparently all obtuse-based, most ellipsoid but some oblong and obovoid; wall hyaline, smooth, amyloid at least when young.

*Basidia* four-spored.

*Cheilocystidia* difficult to discern, irregular in shape, up to ca. 6 μm in diameter, dendrophysis-like with cylindrical flexuous sometimes ramose projections of variable length (up to at least 25 μm long).

*Hymenophora! trama* consisting of hyphae whose cells are mainly short and very inflated; hyphal walls strongly dextrinoid; clamp connections present.

*Ecology in Finland.* So far found in ± acid, mesic, predominantly coniferous forests (MT and OMT), mostly in inhabited ant hills, in needles of *Picea abies* (and probably in other litter as well). From late August to early October.

#### *Specimens examined and sight records*

*Uusimaa:* Espoo, Gumböle (?), by the old Turku Highway near Nuuksio road junction, 12.IX.1967 Harmaja (sight record). — *Satakunta:* Hämeenkyrö, Sasi, OMT with *Otidea leporina*, *Cystoderma* spp. etc., in spruce needles, 6.X.1978 Harmaja (H). — *Etelä-Häme:* Asikkala, Viitaila, OMT, in spruce needles in inhabited ant hill, 9.IX.1978 Harmaja (sight record). Lammi, Palonen, Mataramäki, N edge of the bog Mataramäensuo, MT, in litter at base of inhabited ant hill, with *Humaria* sp. and *Otidea formicarum*, 30.VIII.1978 Harmaja (H). Lammi, Hauhiala, Onnenvuori E, OMT, in spruce needles (and other litter?) at base of inhabited ant hill, with *Humaria hemisphaerica*, 5.IX.1978 Harmaja (H).

This tiny odd-looking agaric is evidently rare as it is seldom mentioned in the literature. However, autumn 1978 was apparently favourable for its fruiting, since I found it in four different localities in southern Finland. *M. picta* has not been reported from Finland earlier.

From the macroscopic and microscopic characters described above it is clear that this species is a true *Mycena*. Within that genus it is a distinct species related to *M. aurantiomarginata* (Fr.) Qué. Characters common to both species are: the dark pileus with fulvous margin, fulvous mycelial hairs at stipe base, fulvous gill edge, cheilocystidia with cylindrical projections, and the common occurrence in spruce needles (and not infrequently in ant hills). *M. picta* differs from *M. aurantiomarginata*, in the macroscopic appearance, the spores, which are smaller and mostly not obovoid, and the narrower cheilocystidia, which bear cylindrical projections of very variable length (in *M. aurantiomarginata* the spores measure ca.  $7.0-9.5 \times 4.0-5.2 \mu\text{m}$  and are mostly obovoid, and the cheilocystidia are broader, up to ca.  $10 \mu\text{m}$  in diameter, and are beset with short rod-like projections all ca.  $2-3 \mu\text{m}$  long). The rarity

of *M. picta* apparently explains why its true relationships have remained undiscovered until now. Singer (1975) suggested that it belonged to *Mycena* or some other genus than *Xeromphalina* Maire, where it was placed by Smith (1953). It may be noted that '*Xeromphalina picta*' sensu Smith (1953), though no doubt a *Mycena*, is different from my *Mycena picta*, possessing more voluminous spores and cheilocystidia.

### References

- Singer, R. 1975: The Agaricales in modern taxonomy. Ed 3. — 912 pp., 84 pls. Vaduz.  
Smith, A.H. 1953: New and rare agarics from the Douglas Lake region and Tahquamenon Falls State Park, Michigan, and an account of the North American species of *Xeromphalina*. — Pap. Michigan Acad. Sci. Arts Lett. 38: 53—87, pls. 1—8.

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