

## Further notes on *Lepista ameliae*

MARCO CONTU

Via Valsesia, 7

I-07029 Tempio P., Sardegna, Italia

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**Key words:** *Basidiomycetes*, *Agaricales*, *Tricholomataceae*, *Lepista ameliae*. - Taxonomy, new combination.

**Abstract:** The critical taxon *Clitocybe spinulosa* var. *ameliae* has recently been collected in Florence. It is described in detail, its taxonomic delimitation is discussed and the new combination *Lepista ameliae* is proposed.

**Zusammenfassung:** Das kritische Taxon *Clitocybe spinulosa* var. *ameliae* wurde kürzlich in Florenz gesammelt. Es wird detailliert beschrieben, seine taxonomische Abgrenzung wird diskutiert und die neue Kombination *Lepista ameliae* vorgeschlagen.

During one of my visits to Florence I had the chance of studying an abundant collection of *Lepista ameliae* rediscovered by Dr L. PITTORRU in a thin *Quercus ilex* L. grove with *Laurus nobilis* L. in the Garden of Boboli. The collection is especially noteworthy as it is from exactly the same site as that used by SINGER & CLÉMENÇON (1972) for their taxonomic assessment of this interesting mediterranean species, which is not at all rare in Sardinia (CONTU 1987, BALLERO & CONTU 1988, 1992). It seemed to be worthwhile to describe it in detail and to discuss its taxonomic delimitation from the similar species *Lepista inversa* (SCOP.) PAT. The description and notes given below are based on this recent collection. Voucher material has been deposited in the Herbarium of the Department of Botanical Sciences of the University of Cagliari (CAG).

***Lepista ameliae* (ARCANGELI) CONTU**, comb. nova. Colour fig. 1, Fig. 1

Basionym: *Clitocybe spinulosa* var. *ameliae* ARCANGELI, Bull. Soc. Bot. Italiana 1889: 434. Type: no type existent. - *Lepista ameliae* (ARCANGELI) SINGER & CLÉMENÇON 1972, Nova Hedwigia 23: 309. Not val. publ., basionym erroneously cited.

### Characters

Pileus: 1-5 cm in diam., scantily fleshy, convex, shallowly depressed, never umbonate in the centre, margin slightly inrolled than straight, not hygrophanous, smooth, not shiny, yellowish-brown, darker in the centre, even pale ochraceous-yellow when drying.

Lamellae: thin, narrow, rather crowded, white to yellowish, yellow when drying.

Stipe: 2-5 x 0.2-0.4 cm, confluent, stuffed, concolorous to the pileus, finely fibrillose-striate, white towards the base from the mycelium.

Context: hardly firm, soft, yellowish, unchangeable, smell pleasant, fruity, taste mild.

Spore print: yellow.

Spores: 3.7-5.4 x 3-3.8  $\mu\text{m}$ , spore average 4.5 x 3.5  $\mu\text{m}$ , Q = 1.1-1.2, subhyaline, subglobose to broadly ellipsoid, finely warty-asperulate (warts cyanophilous), thick-walled and with a large central oil drop.

Basidia: 20-30 x 6-7  $\mu\text{m}$ , 4-spored, clavate, with clamp-connections.

Hymenophoral trama: subirregular.

Cystidia: none.

Pileus surface: a cutis of slightly interwoven, cylindrical, 3-9  $\mu\text{m}$  wide hyphae; pigment mostly vacuolar (never clearly intraparietal).

Vascular hyphae: none.

Clamp-connections: on all septa.

**Habitat:** in the Mediterranean area, in broad-leaved woods with *Quercus suber* L., *Quercus ilex* and, occasionally, *Laurus nobilis*. Autumn. Relatively frequent.

**Material studied:** Italia, Toscana, Firenze, Giardino di Boboli, near *Quercus ilex* and *Laurus nobilis*, on soil rich in humus, 30. 12. 1997, leg. L. PITTORRU, det. M. CONTU (Herb. CAG).

The epitheton *ameliae* appeared first in 1889, when G. ARCANGELI, a Pisan botanist, published the description of *Clitocybe spinulosa* var. *ameliae*. In 1972 SINGER & CLÉMENÇON made a detailed revision of this taxon on the basis of material collected at exactly the same locality as the specimen of the present paper. They transferred it to *Lepista* and raised it to species level as *L. ameliae*.

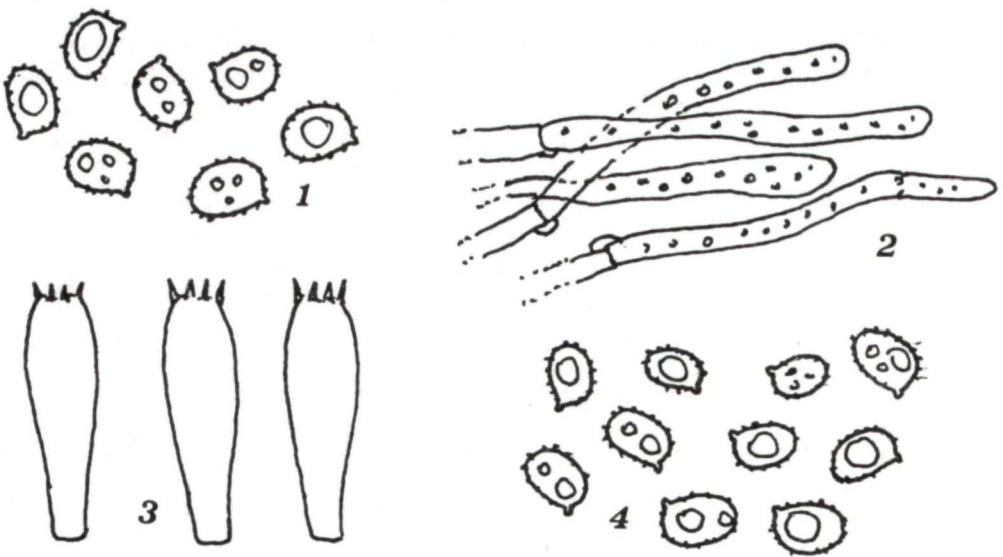


Fig. 1. *Lepista ameliae*, a-c Boboli collection, d Sardinian collection. - a, d spores, x 2000; b pileipellis, x 1500; c basidia, x 1500; del. M. CONTU.

However, from a strict nomenclatural point of view, their recombination in the genus *Lepista* cannot be considered as validly published, because the basionym was not correctly cited (*Clitocybe spinulosa* var. *ameliae* was published in *Bulletino della Società Botanica Italiana* and not in *Nuovo Giornale Botanico Italiano* as reported by SINGER & CLÉMENÇON 1972).

*Lepista ameliae* is a member of subg. *Paralepista* (RAITH.) BON sect. *Gilva* HARMAJA, if the taxonomy of *Lepista* of BON (1983, 1997) is accepted. Undoubtedly, it belongs to the *L. inversa* complex (cf. BON 1983, 1997, MOSER 1986). It can be separated from *L. inversa* by (1) the yellow (golden-yellow) versus whitish or pale pinkish spore print, (2) its colours not in the reddish-fulvous range and (3) the specific habitat in broad-leaved woods with *Quercus ilex* and *Q. suber*. Moreover, its pleasant smell is also different and very characteristic.

Its distribution seems to be limited to the Mediterranean area, where it might be confused with *L. inversa* with which it can even share the growing site.

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Colour fig. I. *Lepista ameliae*, phot. L. PITTORRU.



Colour fig. II. *Mycena cistophila*, holotype. Basidiomata. - Phot. G. MORENO.

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Contu Marco E.

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