

Mycena pallescens, a new species of sect. *Fragilipedes* from La Réunion (France, Africa)

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Abstract: *Mycena pallescens*, collected in La Réunion, is described as a new member of section *Fragilipedes* and compared with other members, with which it has several features in common.

Zusammenfassung: *Mycena pallescens*, die im französischen Überseedepartement La Réunion gefunden wurde, wird als neue Art aus der Sektion *Fragilipedes* beschrieben. Sie wird mit anderen Vertretern dieser Sektion, die ähnliche Eigenschaften aufweisen, verglichen.

La Réunion (French) and Mauritius (former British) are two of the Mascarene Islands, far out in the Indian Ocean, about 400 miles E of Madagascar, between the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn. The second author visited both islands and had the opportunity to collect some fungi, but it was the Island of La Réunion that yielded two collections of a species of *Mycena* which is the subject of this note.

While the most obvious thing to do is to turn to MÉTROD's (1949) work on *Myceenas* of Madagascar for identification of the two recent collections, the search was extended to other publications and keys (CHEEL 1934, CORNER 1954, HENNINGS 1900, HORAK 1978, PEGLER 1977, SEGEDIN 1991, and some unpublished keys of MAAS GEESTERANUS) in order to avoid the error of proposing a new species known already from some other area.

HEIM (1930: 129) referred to a few papers dealing with fungal diseases on cultivated plants (coffee, sugar, vanilla) in these islands but, as far as could be ascertained, no agarics seem to have been collected there.

Mycena pallescens MAAS G. & HAUSKNECHT, spec. nova¹ (Colour fig. I, Figs. 1-5)

Basidiomata gregaria. Pileus 12-25 mm latus, campanulato-convexus, centro umbilicatus, subsulcatus, striatus, siccus, glaber, brunneus subrubro-tinctus vel griseobrunneus. Caro odore et sapore nullis. Lamellae 14-18 stipitem attingentes, molles, arcua-

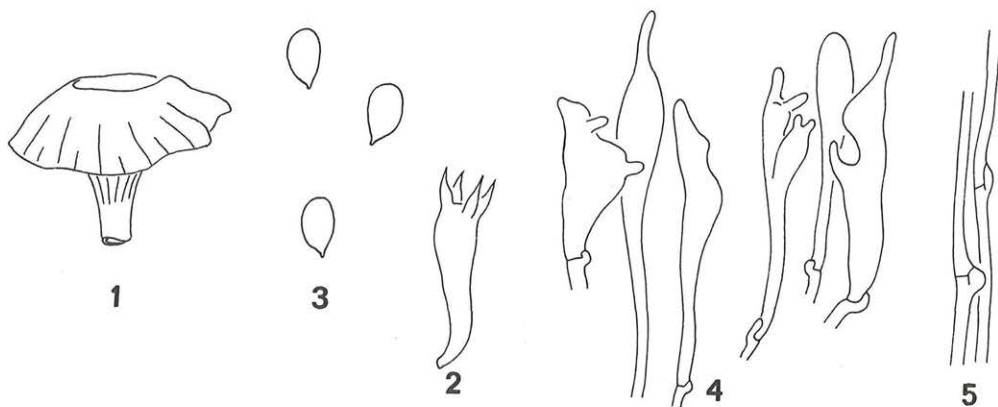
¹ Etymology: Latin: *pallescens*, referring to the much paler colour of the pileus when drying.

tae, decurrentes, pallide griseae, margine concolores. Stipes 30-50 x 1-3 mm, cavus, fragilis, aequalis, cylindraceus, siccus, levis, glaber, sordide albidoflavus, basi fibrillis albis munitus.

Basidia 23-27 x 7-8 μ m, clavata, 4-sporigera, fibulata, sterigmatibus 8 μ m longis instructa. Sporae 8,5-9,2 x 5,5-6,3 μ m, inaequilateraliter ellipsoideae, leves, amyloideae. Cheilocystidia 27-67 x 4,5-10 μ m, clavata vel subfusiformia, fibulata, levia vel surculis sparsis praedita. Pleurocystidia nulla. Trama lamellarum iodi ope brunneovirescens. Hyphae pileipellis 2,7-3,5 μ m latae, fibulatae, leves. Hyphae stipitis corticales 1,8-2,7 μ m latae, fibulatae, leves.

Corticola.

Holotypus: La Réunion (France, Africa), St. Philippe, sentier botanique de Mare Longue, 15. 2. 1995, A. HAUSKNECHT RE 06 (L 975.173-778); isotypus in WU 13719.



Figs. 1-5. *Mycena pallescens* (holotype, L). - 1. Habitus of the dried pileus; - 2. Basidium; - 3. Spores; - 4. Cheilocystidia; - 5. Hyphae of the stipe cortex. - Fig. 1 x 2, all others x 700.

Pileus: 12-25 mm across, campanulate-convex, centrally umbilicate, shallowly sulcate, translucent-striate, dry, glabrous, yellowish brown, reddish brown, grey brown, with much paler margin, pale greyish beige, hygrophanous, drying pale greyish ochraceous, with the surface becoming somewhat appressed-felted.

Lamellae: 14-18 reaching the stipe, tender, arcuate, c. 2.5 mm broad, decurrent, pale grey to greyish beige, with concolorous edge.

Stipe: 30-50 x 1-3 mm, hollow, fragile, equal, terete, dry, smooth, glabrous, polished, whitish beige to beige, the base covered with few white fibrils.

Context: thin, colour not recorded. Odour and taste absent.

Basidia: 23-27 x 7-8 µm, slender-clavate, 4-spored, clamped, with 8 µm long sterigmata.

Spores: 8.5-9.2 x 5.5-6.3 µm, pip-shaped, smooth, amyloid.

Cheilocystidia: 27-67 x 4.5-10 µm, forming a sterile band (lamellar edge homogeneous), slender-clavate to more or less fusiform, clamped, very thin-walled, smooth or with a few, fairly coarse excrescences 2.5-7 x 1.8-2.5 µm. **Pleurocystidia** absent. Lamellar trama brownish vinyescent in Melzer's reagent.

Pileipellis: a cutis made up of radiately aligned hyphae which are 2.7-3.5 µm wide, clamped, smooth. Hypoderm made up of inflated hyphae.

Hyphae of the cortical layer of the stipe: 1.8-2.7 µm wide, clamped, smooth, terminal cells not observed.

Habitat: gregarious on moss-covered fallen trunk of a dicotyledonous tree in rain-forest.

Type locality: Briefly described, the type locality is a stretch on the "sentier botanique" that runs in a dense primary forest on volcanic soil which is some 2 km distant from the coast in the SE corner of the island, and reaches from 0 to about 2000 m s. m.

Additional material studied: La Réunion, St. Philippe, sentier botanique de Mare Longue, 15. 2. 1995, A. HAUSKNECHT RE 07 (L 975.241-167, WU 13720).

Mycena pallescens belongs to a small group within the *Fragilipedes* characterized by a greyish to brownish pileus, non-nitrous smelling context, smooth cheilocystidia, and smooth hyphae of both the pileipellis and the stipe cortex, neither of which are embedded in gelatinous matter. Its species are *Mycena caliginosa* MAAS G. & ENDERLE (1994: 373), *M. fuliginella* A. H. SMITH (MAAS GEESTERANUS 1988 a: 81) and some strains of *M. niveipes* (MURR.) MURR. (MAAS GEESTERANUS 1988 b: 142). Perhaps the Madagascan *M. hemisphaerico-papillata* MÉTROD (1949: 125) belongs here, too, but this species differs from *M. pallescens* in having a sharply pointed papillate pileus, narrowly adnate lamellae, and differently shaped cheilocystidia.

Mycena caliginosa can be ruled out on account of the greater number of lamellae reaching the stipe, its strong chlorine-like odour, and the presence of pleurocystidia.

Mycena fuliginella and *M. niveipes* both differ from *M. pallescens* in the shape of the pileus (not umbilicate) and the presence of caulocystidia. *Mycena fuliginella*, moreover, has fewer lamellae reaching the stipe than *M. pallescens*, and its spores are narrower (3.6-4.7 µm). In *M. niveipes*, the number of lamellae reaching the stipe is much larger (25-30), and the species possesses pleurocystidia.

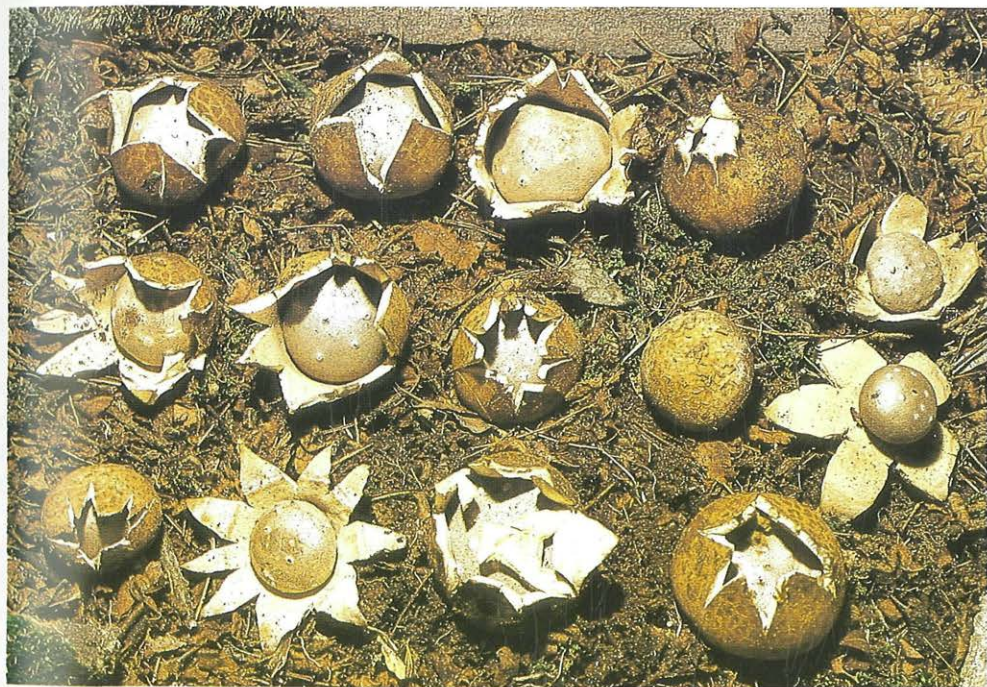
The importance of the discovery of *Mycena pallescens* lies not so much in the fact that it is a new species, but rather that its features identify it as a member of a section which apparently retains its recognizability the world over. This certainly cannot be said to be true of all sections of *Mycena*, but perhaps CORNER tends to take too gloomy a view of things when stating (1994: 2): "I have not bothered with taxonomic subgenera or sections because the Malesian situation is too fluid." and (p. 182): "... but I am doubtful of sections applied to tropical species because too many are yet so little known, if at all." By contrast, in a paper on Papuan Mycenae (MAAS GEESTERANUS & HORAK 1995) it is shown that a surprising number of species readily fit sections originally erected on the basis of North Temperate species.

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Colour fig. I. *Mycena pallescens*, holotypus. - Phot. INGRID HAUSKNECHT.



Farbige Abb. II. *Myriostoma coliforme*, Schönfeld 1985. - Phot. E. MRAZEK.

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