

A New Species of *Licea* (Myxomycetes) from Japan

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Abstract

The new species *Licea kayokoae* Y. YAMAMOTO is described and illustrated. It is characterized by its peridium almost without granular matter and its very minutely verruculose, the largest spores among the subgenus *Pleiomorpha*.

Key Words

Japan, myxomycetes, taxonomy, *Licea*.

Recently Ms. Kayoko FUJIOKA sent two specimens of *Licea* to me for identification. They were collected on the bark of living maple tree in mid-winter in Okayama Pref., Honshu, Japan. As a result of my investigation they proved to be a peculiar *Licea* with unusually large spores. It is described as a new species, *Licea kayokoae*, because she has been so often collecting very small corticolous species of *Licea* by the naked eye.

Stapfia 73,
zugleich Kataloge des OÖ. Landesmuseums,
Neue Folge Nr. 155 (2000), 75-76.

***Licea kayokoae* YAMAMOTO spec. nov.
(Fig. 1)**

Sporocarpia dispersa, sessilia, subglobosa, hemisphaeroidea vel leviter elongata, cuprea, usque ad 160 μm diam. et 130 μm alta. Hypothallus indistinctus. Peridium simplex, crassi-membranaceum, fere sine materia granulosa, dilute luteolum et translucens luce transmissa, intus indistincte, minute verruculosum. Dehiscencia praecipue irregularis superne. Sporae fere globosae vel ellipsoidea, cupreae luce reflexa, rubro-cinereae vel roseo-albae luce transmissa, 15-21 μm diam. vel 14-19 x 16-23 μm , dense, pallide, minuteque verruculosae. Plasmodium ignotum.

of irregular margin. Columella and capillitium none. Spores nearly globose to ellipsoid, brownish-orange in mass, reddish-gray to pinkish-white by transmitted light, 15-21 μm diam. when globose, 14-19 x 16-23 μm when ellipsoid, densely, evenly, palely and very minutely verruculose, sometimes having 1-4 reddish inclusions within. Plasmodium not observed.

Specimens examined: YY-18949 (On the bark of living *Acer* sp., Yoshitani, Mitsu-cho, Mitsu-gun, Okayama Pref., coll. K. FUJIOKA, 23-01-2000, mixed with *Licea erecta* var. *erectoides*, holotype in TNS); YY-18954 (Ibidem, coll. K. FUJIOKA, 4-02-2000, mixed with *Licea erecta* var. *erectoides*)

Etymology: The collector of this new species, Ms. Kayoko FUJIOKA.

The spore-size of this species is highly variable; in the former specimen it measures 18-21 μm , but in the latter it does 15-16(-18) μm in diam., when globose.

This species has no lids nor ridges, and so belongs to the subgenus *Pleiomorpha* NANN.-BREMEK. It is characterized by its peridium almost without granular matter, and the largest spores measuring 15-21 μm in diam. in the subgenus *Pleiomorpha*. Among the species of this subgenus, it is most closely related with *Licea microscopica* D.W. MITCHELL but that species has double peridium with granular, gelatinous outer layer and smooth, pale brown (by transmitted light) spores with thinner and paler wall on one side, measuring (13-)15-17(-18) μm . And this species is somewhat like *Licea bryophila* NANN.-BREMEK., but that species has double peridium and minutely spinulose spores with thinner and paler wall on one side, measuring 14-15 μm in diam.

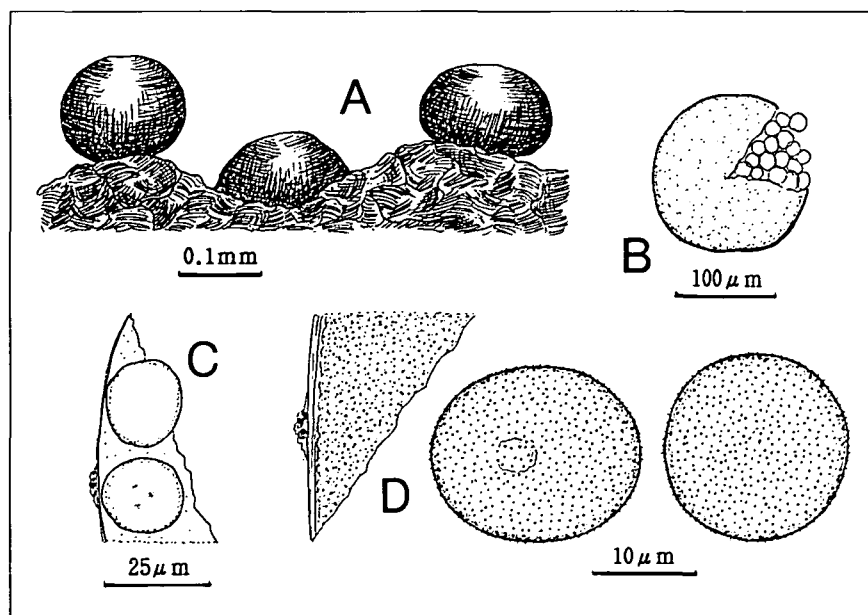


Fig. 1: *Licea kayokoae* (YY-18949, holotype).

A: three sessile sporocarps.
B: a dehiscent sporocarp observed by transmitted light.

C: peridium and two spores.
D: same, further enlarged.

Holotypus: YY-18949 (Iaponia, Prov. Bizen, Mitsu-cho, Yoshitani, ad corticem *Aceris* sp. vivae. Lec. K. FUJIOKA, die 23 mensis Januarii anno 2000, mixtus *Licea erecta* var. *erectoides*, in TNS).

Fructifications sporocarpous. Sporocarps scattered, sessile, subglobose, hemisphaeroid or slightly elongated, brownish-orange (coppery), up to 160 μm diam., and 130 μm tall. Hypothallus indistinct. Peridium of single layer, rather thickly membranous, almost without refuse matter, pale yellow and translucent by transmitted light, indistinctly, palely and very minutely verruculose on the innersurface like the episporic marking. Dehiscence irregular from above, but somewhat circumscissile and leaving the lower part of sporocarp as a cup

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Stapfia](#)

Jahr/Year: 2000

Band/Volume: [0073](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Yamamoto Yukinori

Artikel/Article: [A New Species of Licea \(Myxomycetes\) from Japan 75-76](#)