

Rhizopogon melanogastroïdes n. sp.

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With 1 Textfig.

Peridium tenue, pallide argillaceum, tactum obscurius, fibrillis paucis, innatis. Septa crassa (50—350 μ), lactea; loculi irregulares, sporis paene repleti. Sporae conico-ovoideae, basi fovatae, 7.7—10.9 μ longae, 4.7—6.1 μ latae.

Typus sub *Pino* in Moravia mense Oct. 1928 a F. Petrak lectus, inter Herb. Petrak et Museum Botanicum Hauniense divisus.

Fruit body almost regular, 1.8 cm broad, 1.2 cm high; peridium Pinkish Buff to pale Cinnamon Buff (Ridgway) or more yellowish,

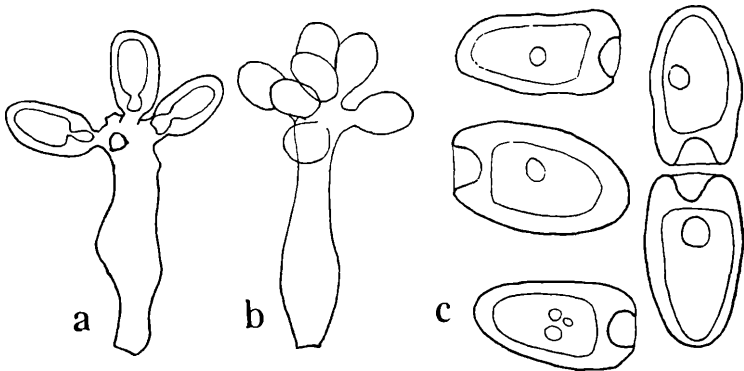


Fig. 1. τ : Basidia with 3 almost ripe spores and two sterigmata; b: Basidia with 7 young spores; c: 5 spores (a, b $\times 500$, c $\times 1100$).

darker around the base, Cinnamon Brown, very thin, a few chambers even opening through the peridium; fibrils few, mostly seen near base, innate, almost black (probably paler when fresh); gleba firm, pale Wood Brown (R.), chambers irregular and rather small, some of them stuffed with spores; septa thick, milky-white, giving gleba a mottled appearance.

Smell and taste not noticed.

Peridium 60—90 μ thick (revived), not typically duplex but inner layer of thin densely matted hyphae, with large pigment balls, Tawny or Ochraceous Tawny (R.); outer part of coarser and more loosely woven hyphae; gleba distinct from peridium, made up of

interwoven hyphae, arrangement tending to subregular in central part of some septa, 3 μ broad, slightly or not gelatinous, several of them with many small oil drops included, somewhat refractive, much branched, sparingly septate, hyaline, a few pigment balls occasionally seen in parts near peridium; septa 50—150(350) μ broad, not scissile; paraphyses not distinctly gelatinised, hyaline, 25 \approx 6—7 μ , basidia (few seen) with up to 8 spores, sterigmata short and thick, spores projectile-shaped, broad, broadest near base, apex blunt, base truncate with a large basal chamber, very thickwalled, with one or few small oildrops, individual spores hyaline, pale Olive Buff in mass, rather variable in size, 7.7—10.9 \approx 4.7—6.1 μ .

Weisskirchen (Moravia) Oct. 1928 (leg. Petrak) under *Pinus* in mixed wood (*Quercus* predominant) on open slope, in limestone area, one fruit body, partly exposed.

The above description is drawn from a single, dried, but very well preserved specimen. Its macroscopical characters should be further studied on fresh material, which will probably be found more yellowish, with almost concolorous fibrils, the peridium and fibrils becoming darker when touched, probably reddening. The stuffed chambers and very thick, white septa will certainly be found distinctive. It is outstandingly well characterized when studied microscopically, as no other European species has similar spores. There are, however, two American species with the same spore type, viz. *Rhizopogon atlanticus* Coker and Dodge, and *R. truncatus* Linder. The former has a much thicker peridium, and spores smaller and more narrow, the latter have a bright yellow peridium, spores smaller and darker, and much thinner septa. Through the courtesy of the curators of the Herbarium of the University of North Carolina and the Farlow Herbarium, I have been able to study the types of these two species, and found (besides the above mentioned differences) both species to have much more thin-walled spores, although the general structure of the spores was the same, and the septa also agreed in the remarkable whitish color at the thickest places. The peculiar basal structure of the spores is best understood when studied on spores still attached to the sterigmata (Fig. 1 a). The small basal chamber is then seen connected with the main chamber of the spore by a narrow channel.

The spore type suggests a transition to the genus *Melanogaster*; the plant is, however, undoubtedly to be placed in *Rhizopogon*, with which genus it shares most other characters, such as a persistent hymenium and open-chambered gleba.

I am greatly indebted to Dr. Petrak, who has placed the material of this interesting species at my disposal.

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