A new species of *Clitocybe*

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**Introduction**

The monographs of *Clitocybe* by Harmaja (1969) and Bigelow (1982) have greatly contributed towards a more natural infrageneric classification. However, there still exist some species which do not really fit into their schemes. One such aberrant species is described here, and a new section is erected to accommodate it.

**Taxonomy**

*Clitocybe* sectio Puberulae Kuyper., sect. nov.


Typus: *C. puberula* Kuyper.

Basidiocarps non-revivescent. Pileus hygrophanous, not translucently striate, pruinose-puberulous. Pileipellis a trichoderm of ascending to erect hyphae. Cheilocystidia present.

**Description**

*Clitocybe puberula* Kuyper., sp. nov. – Fig. 1.


Basidiocarps non-revivescent. – Pileus 12–56 mm broad, often irregular, with central depression to funnel-shaped, margin involute in young specimens, hygrophanous, but not translucently striate, when young dark grey-brown, then sordid brown, pallescence on drying to pale ochraceous brown, young specimens conspicuously
pruinose-puberulous by minute white hairs, later more rugose-puberulous at centre and still pruinose-puberulous towards margin. – Lamellae \([L = 30-40, l = 3-7]\) somewhat thickish, crowded, broadly adnate to subdecurrent, to 5 mm broad, often furcate, greyish brown to sordid brownish, with even, concolorous edge. – Stipe 17–45×3–7 mm, often with subclavate base, soon fistulose, concolorous with pileus, somewhat darkening downwards, at apex with minute white hairs, downwards whitish-striate, at base strigose. – Context rather elastic, hygrophanous, becoming sordid isabella on drying. – Smell when cut faint, subrancid. Taste distinctly rancid. – Spore-print white. Spores \([20, 1]\): 6.5–8.0\((-8.5)\)×3.5–5.0 \(\mu\)m, \(Q = 1.6–1.9\), inamyloid, acyanophilous, only a small minority in tetrads, with acute to obtuse base. – Basidia 17–22×5–6 \(\mu\)m, 4-spored. – Cheilocystidia 34–47×4–6 \(\mu\)m, cylindrical, flexuose, thin-walled, colourless, protruding \(\frac{1}{2}\) to \(\frac{3}{4}\) of length. – Hymenophoral trama subregular, with cylindrical to inflated hyphae, 4–17\((-22)\) \(\mu\)m broad. – Pilei-

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Fig. 1. *Clitocybe puberula* KUYP.: a basidiocarps (natural size). – b. spores (\(\times1500\)). – c. cheilocystidia (\(\times1000\)). – d. pileipellis (\(\times1000\)).
pellis a loose trichoderm of ascending to erect hyphae, 5–10 μm broad; pigment intracellular and minutely incrusting. – Clamps present.

Habitat: Gregarious, on sawdust. May.


The most distinctive character of C. puberula is the structure of the pileipellis, viz. a trichoderm of ascending to erect hyphae. There are two species of Clitocybe, C. alnetorum Favre (nomen nudum) and C. dryadicola (Favre) Harm., in which the pileipellis is said to consist partly of erect, gnarled to coralloid hyphae. According to Singer (1975) these species would better fit in the genus Neoclitocybe Sing. However, his arguments did not convince me, as the genus Neoclitocybe is at the same time characterized by either a so-called Rameales-structure, or an instituted stipe. For the time being it seems therefore better to leave C. alnetorum and C. dryadicola also in Clitocybe.

On account of its cylindrical-flexuose cheilocystidia, one could assume a relationship with species of Clitocybe sect. Aberrantissimae Sing. However, as the species of this section possess a cutis, which might be slightly gelatinized, a close affinity with C. puberula does not seem likely.

Huijsman (1971) was the first to point out that C. puberula (which was dealt by him under the provisional name C. celluloderma) is non-revivescent. This character, which has been widely neglected, might prove to be important in arriving at a more natural classification in Clitocybe. As far as known to date, C. puberula is the only hygrophanous species which is non-revivescent.

References


