

NOTES AND BRIEF ARTICLES

NEWLY RECORDED IN THE NETHERLANDS—IV
PORIA XANTHA

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PORIA XANTHA (Fr. per Fr.) Cooke.—Fig. 1

Polyporus xanthus Fr. per Fr., Syst. mycol. 1: 379. 1821. — *Poria xantha* (Fr. per Fr.) Cooke in Grevillea 14: 112. 1886. — *Amyloporia xantha* (Fr. per Fr.) Bond. & Sing. ex Sing. in Anns. mycol. 39: 50. 1941. — *Poria xantha* (Fr. per Fr.) Cooke f. *pachymeris* Jo. Erikss. in Svensk bot. Tidskr. 43: 22. 1949. — For other synonyms see Donk (1974: 164).

Fruit-bodies perennial, resupinate or on vertical surfaces also in the shape of dimidiate, conical pilei, up to 15 × 10 × 15 mm, made up of indistinctly stratified tubes. The young, wide lower part of the pilei light yellow to pale orange, the old, narrow upper part greyish and zonate. Fruit-bodies fibrous when young, becoming brittle, then friable or even chalky with age. Margin at first sterile, white, arachnoid, later forming a fertile, well-defined edge. Subiculum white, up to 1(-2) mm thick, strongly amyloid. Tubes up to 5 mm long, with entire edges. Pores about circular, 0.05-0.15 mm in diameter, sometimes elongated to 0.5 mm, 4-9 per mm. Dissepiments 0.05-0.1 mm thick, pseudo-amyloid (colouring golden yellow to reddish brown) or weakly amyloid. Fruit-bodies with distinct lemon odour when fresh according to collectors of specimens from Olst (see below), aromatic according to others; at first mild, then very bitter.

Hyphal system dimitic. Skeletal hyphae abundant, non-septate, thick-walled, rarely branched, flexuous, interwoven, 1.5-5 μm in diameter. In subiculum large diameters prevail, in dissepiments small ones. Generative hyphae scarce, septate, with clamps, thin-walled, 1-2 μm in diameter. Basidia clavate, 11-16(-18) × 3-5 μm. Spores cylindrical, curved, hyaline, smooth, inamyloid, 4-5(-5.5) × 1-1.5(-2) μm.

COLLECTIONS EXAMINED.—NETHERLANDS: prov. Utrecht, Lage Vuursche, 29 Oct. 1966, J. Daams, on vertical side of *Picea* stump (L); prov. Overijssel, Olst, 'Het Wijnbergen', 16 Nov. 1974 and 26 Nov. 1977, J. Piepenbroek & G. Piepenbroek-Groters, on vertical sides and on top of stumps of coniferous trees (L).

The foregoing description is based mainly on the specimens collected near Olst, which are developed much better than those from Lage Vuursche. The pilei of the latter, although numerous (10-15 per cm² in large parts of the surface area) are considerably smaller (measuring about 2 × 2 × 2 mm) and, varying in colour from light yellow to greyish orange, they do not show the striking colour contrast of the former. The dissepiments of all the specimens of the Olst collection show a pseudo-

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amyloid reaction, but those from Lage Vuursche sometimes are slightly amyloid and sometimes pseudo-amyloid.

The specimens with the tiny nodose pilei appear to be identical with, or at least very close to the form of *Poria xantha*, which is frequently found in the South of Sweden. It is the one described by Fries and, therefore, represents *P. xantha* f. *xantha*. The specimens with the much larger, well-developed pilei, agree with the form found, in addition to f. *xantha*, in many other countries of the northern temperate zone. Because it had been given various confusing or incorrect names, J. Eriksson (1949: 22) proposed for it a new one: f. *pachymeris*. This name appears to have been commonly accepted, although Donk (1967: 124; 1974: 165) has pointed out that it was not validly published, because a Latin description was lacking.

Bondarcev & Singer (1941: 50) have placed *Poria xantha*, together with three other species in a new genus: *Amyloporia*. The most important feature distinguishing

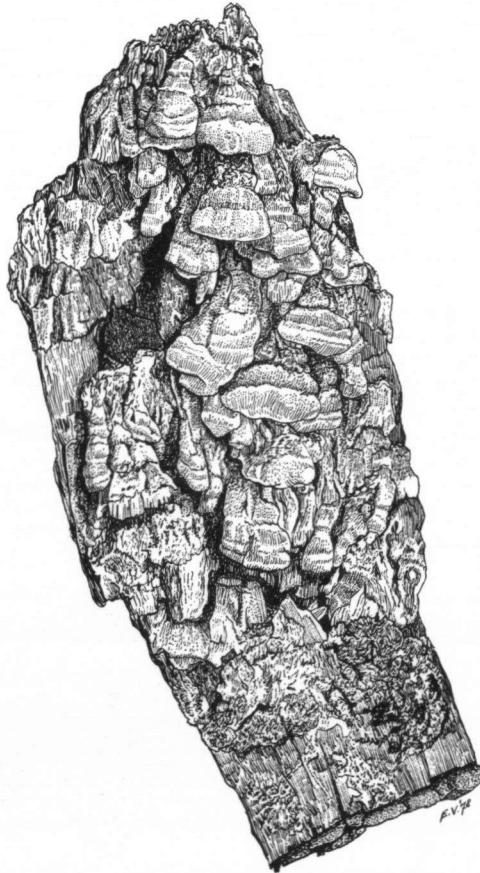


Fig. 1. *Poria xantha* f. *pachymeris*. Fruit-body ($\times 1$) of collection from Olst, 1974.

it from *Poria* is the amyloidity of the context of the fruit-bodies. According to Donk, (1967: 67-68), however, this is only true for *P. xantha*. He also doubted (*ibid.*: 69) whether this feature is sufficient reason for the creation of a new genus. Therefore he preferred to leave the species in the genus *Poria*.

Poria xantha usually grows on coniferous wood, but it has been found also on deciduous trees.

In the northern half of Germany (in the mountains as well as in the lowlands) *P. xantha* has been almost exclusively found as *f. pachymeris* (Jahn 1971: 60), The same applies to Denmark (Christiansen 1960: 347-348). Jahn states (*ibid.*) that the species is more frequently found in the southern than in the northern half of Germany, but according to Bourdot & Galzin (1928: 675) it is rare in France. Pegler (1973: 38) lists both forms for Great Britain.

The collections described above are the only ones recorded in the Netherlands at the present time.

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