

MYCENA TRISTIS, A NEW EUROPEAN SPECIES OF SECTION FRAGILIPEDES

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Mycena tristis, collected in Finland and belonging to section *Fragilipedes*, is described as a new species.

The purpose of this note is to draw the attention to a species of the genus *Mycena* kindly sent to me for identification by Mr. U. Söderholm, Tampere, Finland.

The parcel contained, apart from a few brief macroscopic notes and an excellent colour slide, some well-dried specimens which, however, were badly broken in transport. Fortunately this proved in no way an impediment for microscopic investigation, in the course of which the conviction grew that Mr. Söderholm's find represents an as yet undescribed species. Its features identify this species as a member of section *Fragilipedes* (Fr.) Quéf.

Mycena tristis Maas. G., *spec. nov.*¹ — Figs. 1–8

Basidiomata sparsa. Pileus usque ad 45 mm latus, conicus, hygrophanus, e atro griseobrunnescens. Caro tenuis, odore indistincta. Lamellae c. 30 stipitem attingentes, obscure griseae, margine albidae. Stipes –80 × 3–4 mm, fragilis, e atro griseobrunnescens vel brunneus, basi fibrillis albis munitus.

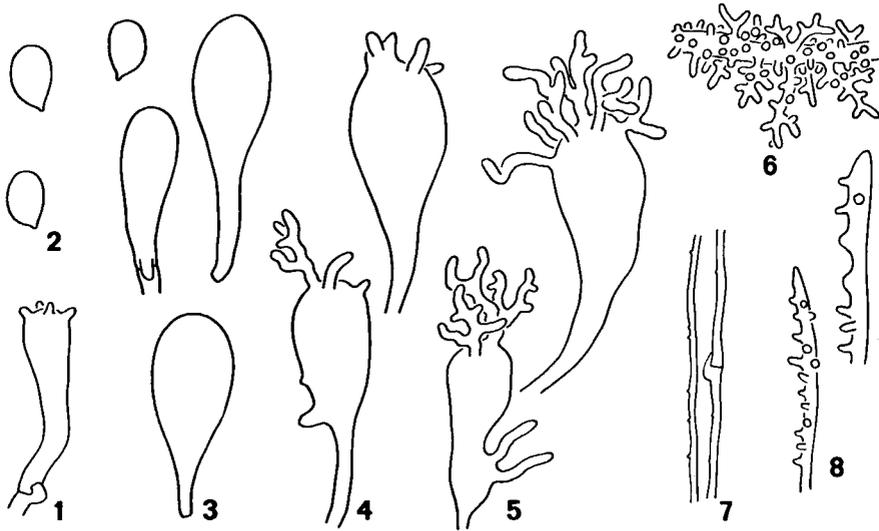
Basidia 35–45 × 9 μm, clavata, 4-spora, fibulata. Sporae 9.1–10.3 × 6.5–7.2 μm, amyloideae. Cheilocystidia 35–70 × 11–22.5 μm, clavata, fibulata, levia (lamellarum media parte) vel surculis versiformibus instructa (pilei marginem versus). Pleurocystidia non visa. Trama lamellarum iodi ope vivescens.

Holotypus: 'Fungi fennici / *Mycena tristis* Maas G. / U. Söderholm 1466 / 4 Oct. 1987 / (province) Etelä-Häme, Kangasala, Vihtinen' (L, no 987.340-241).

Basidiomata scattered. Pileus up to 45 mm across, conical, flattening with age and becoming very shallowly conical with broad, low umbo, shallowly sulcate, translucent-striate, moist, hygrophanous, very dark grey to almost blackish, drying with a more brownish tint. Flesh thin, dark greyish. Odour indistinct, taste not recorded. Lamellae c. 30 reaching the stipe, tender, ascending, up to c. 3.5 mm broad, ventricose, narrowly adnate, smooth, dark grey, more particularly towards the base, the edge convex, whitish. Stipe –80 × 3–4 mm, hollow, fragile, splitting lengthwise, gradually widening towards the base, terete or somewhat compressed, straight to slightly curved, smooth, delicately pruinose above, glabrous farther down, blackish grey when young, then more date brown to grey-brown, paler than the drying pileus, the base densely covered with long, coarse, somewhat woolly, white fibrils.

Basidia 35–45 × 9 μm, slender-clavate, 4-spored, clamped, with sterigmata 7–8 μm long. Spores 9.1–10.3 × 6.5–7.2 μm, fairly broadly pip-shaped, smooth, amyloid. Cheilo-

¹ Etymology: *tristis*, sad; also used to denote a very dark colour.



Figs. 1–8. *Mycena tristis* (holotype). — 1. Immature basidium. — 2. Spores. — 3. Cheilocystidia, taken from about the middle of a lamella. — 4. Cheilocystidia nearer the pileus margin. — 5. Cheilocystidia close to the pileus margin. — 6. Part of a hypha of the pileipellis. — 7. Hyphae of the cortical layer of the stipe. — 8. Terminal cells. (All figs., $\times 700$.)

cystidia $35\text{--}70 \times 11\text{--}22.5 \mu\text{m}$, occurring mixed with basidia, sometimes more crowded but not really forming a sterile band, clavate, clamped, smooth (in the middle part of the lamella) or covered with few (farther towards the pileus margin) to several (close to the pileus margin) unevenly spaced, coarse, simple to furcate or branched, cylindrical, variously curved excrescences $20 \times 2\text{--}3.5 \mu\text{m}$ with obtuse tips. Pleurocystidia not observed. Lamellar trama vivescent in Melzer's reagent. Hyphae of the pileipellis $1.5\text{--}3.5 \mu\text{m}$ wide, clamped, covered with scattered to more crowded, simple to branched excrescences $2.5\text{--}15 \times 1\text{--}2 \mu\text{m}$ which may form very dense masses. Hyphae of the cortical layer of the stipe $1\text{--}2 \mu\text{m}$ wide, clamped, smooth or sparsely covered with small warts or more cylindrical excrescences less than $1 \mu\text{m}$ high, the terminal cells (causing the pruinosity at the top of the stipe) $2\text{--}6.5 \mu\text{m}$, covered with simple, cylindrical excrescences $2\text{--}5 \times 2 \mu\text{m}$.

Growing on vegetable debris (containing decayed *Picea* needles) among grass and herbs under *Betula*.

Collection examined. — FINLAND, prov. Etelä-Hame: Kangasala, Vihtinen, 4 Oct. 1987, U. Söderholm 1466 (holotype: L, no 987.340-241).

The macroscopic description of the species is adapted from the collector's notes, complemented by my own observations on the colour slide and the dried material. The microscopic details are based on examination of the type.

The dark colours of the pileus and the lamellae remind one of those in fresh, young specimens of *Mycena leptcephala* (Pers.: Fr.) Gillet, but the latter differs among other

features in the slightly lubricous surface of the wet pileus, the fewer lamellae, and the smooth hyphae of the cortical layer of the stipe with their strikingly inflated terminal cells.

Another dark species with which *M. tristis* conceivably could be confused is *Mycena aetites* (Fr.) Quél., but the salient characters of this species are the lubricous pileus surface when moist, much fewer lamellae reaching the stipe, and the more pronounced ornamentation of the hyphae of the cortical layer of the stipe.

At the time Mr. Söderholm's material was received, I had finished the revision of section *Fragilipedes* of the Northern Hemisphere (to be published elsewhere) and awaited the galley-proofs. Changes in the manuscript, however desirable, were no longer possible, but the discovery of yet another member of the *Fragilipedes* once again demonstrates that this section (by far the largest and most difficult of the genus) still has surprises in store.