

MYCENA TERENA, A NEW MEMBER OF SECTION POLYADELPHIA  
FROM SOUTHERN NORWAY

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*Mycena terena* is proposed as a new species belonging to section *Polyadelphia*. It deviates from other members of this section on account of its smooth cheilocystidia.

It is hard to explain what it is that drives one (the first author) to rummage among fallen willow leaves in search of *Mycenas*, even though his experience says that much more promising habitats are to be found elsewhere. And yet, there they were. Minute specimens of a manifestly unknown *Mycena* arising from long dead, curled-up willow leaves, lifting their tiny heads on very slender black-tipped stipes.

*Mycena terena* Aronsen & Maas G., *spec. nov.*<sup>3</sup> — Figs. 1–11

Basidiomata solitaria vel subcongregata. Pileus usque ad 3 mm latus, campanulatus vel hemisphericus, interdum papillatus, deinde obtuse umbonatus, acetate raro depressus, plerumque sulcatus, haud translucente striatus, minute pruinosis, glabrescens, siccus, e argillaceo albido-pallescens, centro obscurior. Caro tenuis, pallida, odore nullo. Lamellae 0–8 stipitem attingentes, adnatae vel late adnatae, albae. Stipes 5–10(–23) × < 0.2 mm, minute pruinosis, initio apice niger, deorsum albido-pallescens, basi fibrillis albis instructus.

Basidia 17–25 × 7–10 μm, clavata, 4-spora, fibulata, sterigmatibus 4.5–6.5 μm longis munita. Sporae 7.2–9.0 × 4.5–5.6 μm, amyloideae. Cheilocystidia 17–30 × 6.5–10 × 0–4.5 μm, sparsa, cylindracea, subclavata, fusiformia, sublageniformia, fibulata, laevia. Pleurocystidia nulla. Trama lamellarum iodi ope vivescens. Hyphae pileipellis 4.5–10.5 μm latae, fibulatae, diverticulatae. Hyphae stipitis corticales 1.5–4.5 μm latae, fibulatae, diverticulatae.

Ad *Salicis folia* decisa.

Holotypus: "Fungi norvegici / *Mycena terena* Aronsen & Maas G. / leg. A. Aronsen, no. A 26/90 / 14 Oct. 1990 Vestfold: Tjøme, Hvasser, Sønstegård / on buried *Salix* leaves on the ground" (L, no. 990. 198-234).

Basidiomata solitary or in small groups. Pileus up to 3 mm across, conical, parabolical, campanulate, hemispherical, young occasionally with a small papilla, later mostly obtusely umbonate, flattening with age, rarely plano-convex and with the centre somewhat depressed, generally shallowly sulcate, not translucent-striate, minutely pruinose, glabrescent, dry, at first beige or pale grey, often with the centre darker grey, then fading to pale grey or white, often with the centre yellowish or ochraceous brown. Flesh thin, pallid. Odour none, taste not recorded. Lamellae 0–8 reaching the stipe, usually well developed (although less than 0.5 mm broad) but occasionally only showing as faint ridges, tender, ascending, becoming subhorizontal, adnate to broadly adnate, smooth,

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3) Etymology: τέρενα, slender.

white, the edge more or less concave, white. Stipe 5–10(–23) × < 0.2 mm, equal, terete, flexuous, smooth, minutely pruinose, entirely black in very young specimens except for the base which is whitish, retaining the black colour only at the very apex when growing older, grey to dark grey farther below, finally fading to greyish white or watery white throughout, the base attached to the substratum by shorter or longer, fine, white fibrils.

Basidia 17–25 × 7–10 µm, clavate, 4-spored, clamped, with plump sterigmata 4.5–6.5 µm long. Spores 7.2–9.0 × 4.5–5.6 µm, pip-shaped, smooth, amyloid. Cheilocystidia 17–30 × 6.5–10 × 0–4.5 µm, occurring mixed with basidia (lamellar edge heterogeneous), cylindrical, subclavate, fusiform, sublageniform, occasionally sigmoid, clamped (but clamps easily missed), smooth, rarely with a few, very coarse excrescences, apically generally broadly rounded but also more or less narrowed to form a neck. Pleurocystidia absent. Lamellar trama vinescent in Melzer's reagent. Hyphae of the pileipellis 4.5–10.5 µm wide, clamped (but clamps not present at every septum), densely covered with cylindrical, straight excrescences 1–2.5 × 0.9 µm. Hyphae of the cortical layer of the stipe 1.5–4.5 µm wide, clamped (but clamps infrequent), more or less densely covered with cylindrical, sometimes more thorn-like, straight to curved excrescences 1–3.5 × 0.9 µm.

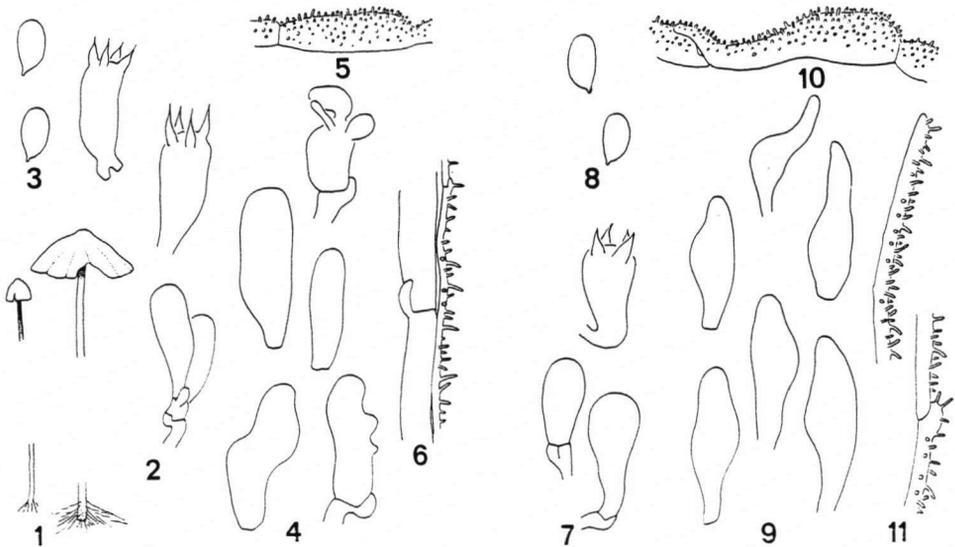
Growing on fallen leaves of *Salix* spec.

*Collections examined.* NORWAY. Vestfold, Tjøme, Hvasser, Sønstegård: 26 Oct. 1989, A. Aronsen A51/89 (L, no. 990.198-189); same locality: 4 Nov. 1989, A. Aronsen A66/89 (L, no. 990.198-251); same locality: 14 Oct. 1990, A. Aronsen A26/90 (holotype; L, no. 990.198-234).

The macroscopic description of the species has been made by the first author, at some points complemented by the second author's observations on the dried material, while the microscopic details are based on the second author's reexamination of the collections mentioned above.

*Mycena terena* is a member of section *Polyadelphia* Sing. ex Maas G. and has many features in common with the section's type species, *M. polyadelpha* (Lasch) Kühn., such as minute size, small number of lamellae, somewhat concave lamellar edge, very narrow stipe, relatively broad basidia, plump sterigmata, lack of pleurocystidia, wide hyphae of the pileipellis and their characteristic ornamentation of densely spaced, short excrescences and, finally, occurrence on decayed leaves of a deciduous tree. There is one character, however, which will necessitate an emendation of the sectional diagnosis and by which the species can at once be differentiated from other members of section *Polyadelphia*: the cheilocystidia are smooth. Although this may seem a fundamental difference, it should be remembered that the cheilocystidia of *Mycena riparia* Maas G. appear not nearly as densely diverticulate as their counterparts in *M. polyadelpha* or *M. quercus-ilicis* Kühn. (Maas Geesteranus, 1986), thus occupying an intermediate position.

An unusual character shared by *M. terena* and *M. albiceps* (Peck) Gilliam (Maas Geesteranus, l.c.) is their black stipe. The difference is that in the former species, the stipe, except for its whitish base, is entirely black in very young specimens, then gradually fades with age from the base upwards to grey or white although remaining black at the apex for some time longer. In *M. albiceps*, the stipe is black for the greater part but it is the apex which is paler, while the black colour seems to be retained even in aged specimens. The decisive difference separating *M. terena* from *M. albiceps* is in the cheilocystidia of the latter species. Owing to the scantiness of the type material of *M. albiceps* cheilo-



Figs. 1–6. *Mycena terena* (holotype, Aronsen A 26/90; L). 1. Habitus of young and old specimen (dried); 2. basidia; 3. spores; 4. cheilocystidia; 5. hypha of the pileipellis; 6. hypha of the cortical layer of the stipe. — Figs. 7–11. *Mycena terena* (Norway: Aronsen A 51/89; L). 7. Basidia; 8. spores; 9. cheilocystidia; 10. hypha of the pileipellis; 11. hyphae of the cortical layer of the stipe. (Fig. 1,  $\times 10$ ; all others,  $\times 700$ .)

cystidia were not observed (Maas Geesteranus, 1986: 162), but unpublished illustrations executed by Dr D.E. Desjardin (San Francisco) show the cheilocystidia of *M. albiceps* to be apically covered with rather numerous, coarse, more or less curved excrescences.

If one were to judge *Mycena terena* by its cheilocystidia alone, the species could easily be mistaken for a member of section *Fragilipedes* (Fr.) Quél. However, there is not a single species of the *Fragilipedes* which combines such characters as extremely small size, distant lamellae (generally less than 10), and comparatively broad hyphae of the pileipellis that are very densely covered with wart-like excrescences.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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#### REFERENCE

- Maas Geesteranus, R.A. 1986. Conspectus of the Mycenae of the Northern Hemisphere—6. Sections Polyadelphia and Saetulipedes. Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (Ser. C) 89: 159–182.