

**APHELARIOPSIS KUPEMONTIS: A NEW AURICULARIROID SPECIES
FROM CAMEROON**

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A new clavarioid fungus with auricularioid basidia is described from Cameroon in West Equatorial Africa.

Only five species of auricularioid fungi have been described with clavarioid (club or coral-shaped) basidiomes, and these are distributed among four separate genera: *Aphelariopsis* Jülich, *Eocronartium* Atk., *Neotyphula* Wak., and *Paraphelaria* Corner. Whilst preparing a paper on holobasidiomycetous clavarioid fungi from Cameroon (Roberts, 1999), a sixth auricularioid species was discovered, the first such recorded from Africa, which is here described as new.

***Aphelariopsis kupemontis* P. Roberts, spec. nov.** — Figs. 1, 2

Basidiomata pteruloidea, 40–50 mm alta, dichotome ramosa, griseo-alba. Hyphae hyalinae vel brunneae, 3–5 µm latae, efibulatae. Probasidia subglobosa vel ellipsoidea, 10–12 µm diam., stipitata. Epibasidia tubulosa, usque 40 × 9 µm, incurvata. Basidiosporae cylindratae, 14.5–16 × 4.5–5 µm, suballantoideae.

Holotype: Cameroon, South West Province, Mount Kupe (path from village), on living *Tabernaemontana* sapling (1 m from ground), 25 Jan. 1995, *M. Cheek 7155* (K(M) 57977).

Basidiomes pterulioid, erect (or at least not pendent), 40–50 mm high, dichotomously branched 4–5 times from base, all branches <1 mm wide, not noticeably thicker or wider at base, but narrower and penicillate at apices (Fig. 2); grey-white when fresh (darkening towards the base) and remaining so when dried; basidiomes gregarious, arising from a thin subicular mat to form a dense, interwoven cluster, the branches agglutinating or anastomosing when dried. Hyphae hyaline in hymenium and branch apices, pale to dark brown in context and subiculum, 3–5 µm diam., with thin to thickened walls, straight and rarely branched in context, somewhat agglutinated, lacking clamp-connexions. Cystidia absent. Basidia arising from all parts of the basidiome surface in a loose or ill-defined hymenium; probasidia subglobose to ellipsoid, 10–12 µm diam., with distinct stem; epibasidia arising apically or laterally from the probasidia, tubular, up to 40 × 9 µm, typically incurving, developing three lateral septa. Basidiospores cylindrical, 14.5–16 × 4.5–5 µm, suballantoid and narrowing towards the apiculus; germination not seen.

Following Jülich (1982), the collection above is clearly congeneric with *Aphelariopsis borneensis* (Jülich) Jülich, the type of *Aphelariopsis* Jülich. The Cameroon specimens have clavarioid basidiomes (Fig. 2) with auricularioid basidia arising from subglobose to ellipsoid probasidia (Fig. 1), typical of *A. borneensis*. However, the latter species was described from Sarawak (Borneo), has smaller (<15 mm high), simple or furcate basidiomes, smaller probasidia (5.5–8 µm diam.), and shorter, curved-cylindrical basidiospores (12–14 µm long)

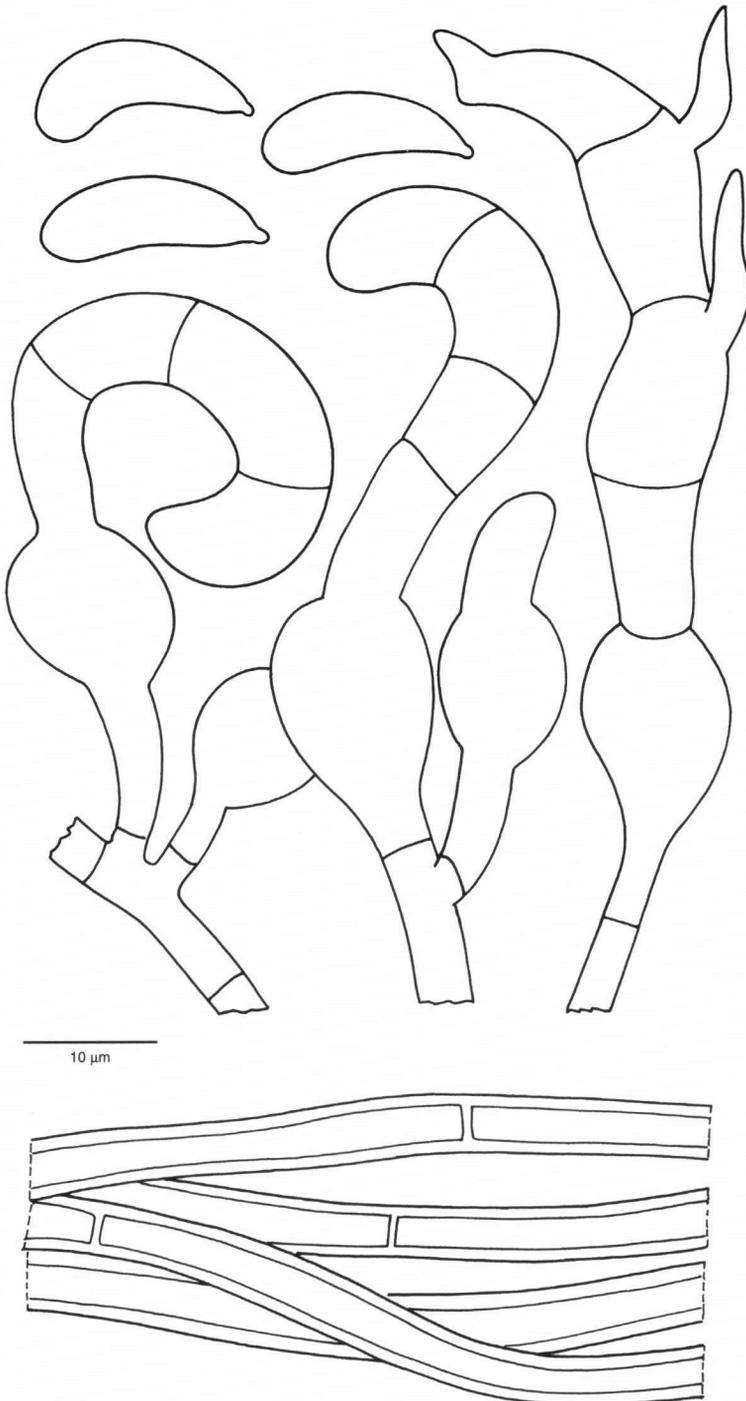


Fig. 1. *Aphelariopsis kupemontis*. Basidiospores, young and mature basidia, and context hyphae.

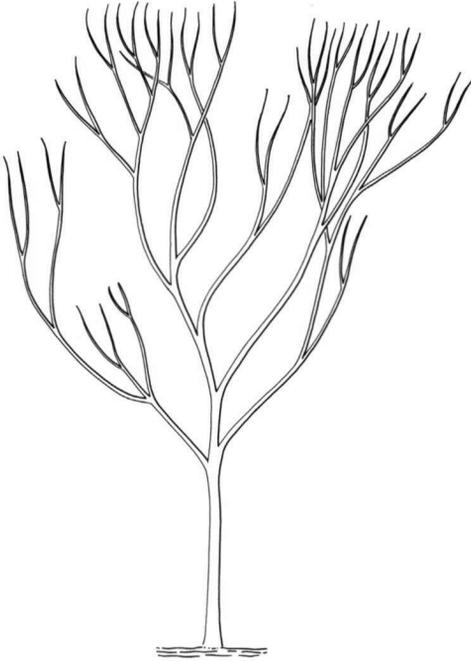


Fig. 2. *Aphelariopsis kupemontis*. Single basidiome ($\times 2$) extracted from a dense interwoven cluster.

(Jülich, 1982). Two other species, *Aphelariopsis colombiana* (Welden) Jülich described from South America and *Paraphelaria amboinensis* (Lév.) Corner described from Indonesia, appear to be related but differ inter alia in having basidia which lack probasidia (Corner, 1966; Jülich, 1982).

REFERENCES

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