

Book review

ANNAROSA BERNICCHIA

Polyporaceae s.l. – In: *Fungi Europaei*, vol. 10: 808 p., 343 colour photographs, 292 line drawings. – Edizioni Candusso (<http://edizionicandusso.it>), Italia, 2005. ISBN: 88-901057-5-5. Price: 67 Euro.

Fifteen years after the first complex work on polypores of Italy was published (Bernicchia 1990), the well-known Italian mycologist Annarosa Bernicchia comes with a second book dealing with this subject, significantly contributing to the knowledge of this interesting and often studied group of higher fungi by a clear arrangement of data. This voluminous work of 808 pages, excellently printed on coated paper, presents a comprehensive survey of information on polypores occurring in Italy and hence it is important for the study of the Mediterranean as well as Central-European mycoflora. After introductory chapters, devoted to a characterisation of the territory, the macro- and microfeatures of polypores and their classification, keys to the identification of families and genera follow. The major part of the book is devoted to detailed descriptions of the species. In this work, 271 species of polypores are treated with descriptions supplemented by drawings of microcharacters true to nature. About 250 species (carpophores) are presented as colour photographs. Even if the book is written in Italian, foreign mycologists will appreciate the easy to digest diagnoses of species, containing the most important macro- as well as microcharacters in English. Also the identification keys translated into English are useful. An important feature are the original descriptions relating to the first publishing of the name, reproduced in the language in which they were originally published (added to most of the species). As a matter of course the book includes a short glossary of technical terms, a bibliography of the most important works on polypores and an index of generic and species names.

In the book, the new combination *Oligoporus alni* (Niemelä et Vampola) Bernicchia is proposed, two new species are described (*Antrodiella citrina* Bernicchia et Ryvarden and *Antrodiella ichnusana* Bernicchia, Renvall et Arras) and about 10 species are reported for the first time from Italy. As we cannot analyse this whole book in detail here, we will confine ourselves to a few comments. As regards the new combination *Oligoporus alni*, the real priority belongs to the name *Oligoporus alni* (Niemelä et Vampola) Piątek, published two years earlier (Piątek 2003). This fungus of the complex of *Oligoporus caesius* has only recently been described (Niemelä et al. 2001) and is often confused with *Oligoporus subcaesius* (A. David) Ryvarden et Gilb. It undoubtedly also occurs in Italy and the photo on p. 705 (above) most probably represents this species.

Concerning the species *Antrodiella citrina* Bernicchia et Ryvarden, according to its authors differing from *Antrodiella radiculosa* (Peck) Gilb. et Ryvarden only in the size of pores and spores, we feel that a more detailed study of this problem is necessary in the future. Since 1991, when *Antrodiella radiculosa* was collected for the first time in our country (Vampola 1992), we have had the opportunity to study in detail rather rich material of this species from several other localities in the Czech Republic besides the specimens from North America and also one collection from Italy (Roncegno, reg. Trentino – Alto Adige). When studying the carpophores in various stages of development, we observed a rather great variability in the size and form of spores as well as in the size of pores. In our opinion, all specimens studied by us represent only one, though rather variable species.

The new species *Antrodiella ichnusana* Bernicchia, Renvall et Arras, occurring on *Alnus glutinosa* and *Populus alba* in Sardinia, is very interesting and a unique species in the genus *Antrodiella*. This polypore is an impulse for us to revise in detail several collections of a similar resupinate species from broad-leaved trees in warm regions of Moravia, in the field preliminary considered to be *Diplomitoporus lindbladii* (Berk.) Gilb. et Ryvarden.

As already mentioned, a precise drawing of microcharacters is added to every species. A comment on one drawing is necessary here: the drawing of *Junghuhnia lacera* on page 306 is evidently errone-

ous (as it was also in the first edition of 1990) and represents in reality a species of the genus *Oxyporus*, probably *O. obducens*.

Some other errors or mistakes have been made in the identification of the photographs. For instance, *Albatrellus subrubescens* (p. 591) is evidently *A. ovinus*. Nevertheless, the photo on p. 592 is certainly correctly identified. The picture of *Fomitopsis rosea* (p. 646, below) is in reality *Fomitopsis pinicola* (no trace of rose tint on pores). The figure of *Grifola frondosa* on p. 663 (above) certainly represents *Polyporus umbellatus*. It also seems that the photo of *Ganoderma australe* on p. 650 represents another species (slightly lustrous crust in older parts – never present in *G. australe*). We suppose that the figure on p. 606 (above) of *Antrodiella genistae* must be that of some *Postia* species. Almost certainly the figure on p. 624 does not represent *Ceriporiopsis resinascens* (distinct pilei with large pores – never observed by us in this species). In our opinion it could represent a very rare form of *Ceriporiopsis aneirina* with broad pseudopilei. As regards the figure on p. 643 (above) we can only state that such a form of *Fomitopsis iberica* has never been seen by us. Generally, however, we could confirm the exact identification of the great majority of photographs which are of the highest quality and faithfully illustrate the species in their natural environment.

As regards the keys and descriptions a few remarks can be made. In the key to the genus *Coltricia* (p. 184), the sentence „Hymenophore poroid or with concentric lamellae” relates to North American populations of *C. montagnei* – in Europe only poroid carpophores have been observed so far. *Polyporus varius* (p. 474–475) is much more variable in pileus size – in the description only medium-sized fruitbodies („pileus 6–8 cm wide”) are recorded. On small twigs fruitbodies with pilei 7–15 mm broad are often collected and on bigger trunks pilei are up to 15 cm (or more) broad.

The original descriptions, which are quoted under most species, are in two cases not relating to the fungi described in the reviewed book: in *Trametes suaveolens* the original description (p. 536) relates in reality to *Haploporus odoratus* and the one quoted (on p. 301) for *Ischnoderma resinosum* relates to *Fomitopsis pinicola*.

There are a number of very important new contributions in this book. These are particularly the results of intensive research in Sardinia, especially of xerothermic shrubby vegetation. The most interesting are treatments of such species as *Antrodia sandaliae*, *Echinodontium ryardenii*, and *Perenniporia rosmarini*. Also very interesting are descriptions and pictures of rare species like *Polyporus corylinus*, *Perenniporia meridionalis*, *Neolentiporus squamosellus* and *Lenzites oxycedri*.

Some new ideas should not escape the reader's attention. An interesting novelty is the distinguishing of *Daedaleopsis confragosa* from the closely related *D. tricolor* by the character of bases of dendrohyphidia: hyaline in *D. confragosa* and coloured in *D. tricolor*. This character should be checked on further material.

The reviewed book is undoubtedly one of the best monographs on polypores published in Europe and will be a significant source of information for every mycologist studying this complicated but very important group of fungi.

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