HYGROCYBE MONTEVERDAE
A new species of subgenus Cuphophyllus (Agaricales) from the Canary Islands (Spain)
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Hygrocybe monteverdae, collected in monte-verde forest in the Canary Islands, is proposed as a new species belonging to subgenus Cuphophyllus. Its most remarkable character is the blackening lamellae after drying, being the sole species with this feature in the subgenus.

The ‘monte-verde’ (Pruno-Lauretalia azoricae Oberd. ex Rivas Mart. et al.) of the Macaronesian Archipelago ( Açores, Madeira and Canary Islands) is traditionally mis-named ‘laurisilva’ (Rivas-Martínez et al., 1993) because of its similarity with the tropical montane lauroid and subtropical-temperate forest. It is a mediterranean hard-leaved forest with a great floristic diversity and predominance of trees, belonging to different plant families, with perennial, coriaceous and bright leaves similar to the leaves of laurel (Laurus). Its origin has been founded by the temperate-subtropical paleoflora extant at the end of the Tertiary at Mediterranean riversides which disappeared in the course of the pleistocene glaciations. This community survived on the islands as a plant relict of extraordinary singularity worldwide.

Its pluviometric regime is concentrated mainly in the coldest seasons, autumn and winter; the summer is more of arid character. The annual average precipitation is 600–1,000 mm. Its establishment between 300 and 1,000 m altitude at the northern slopes of the islands is caused by the incidence of the humid Atlantic winds, ‘alisios’, that support a pluviometric increase along the year by the horizontal precipitation phenomenon.

In Europe most species of Hygrocybe are found outside forests in old, poor grasslands, some in heathland and peat bogs (Arnolds, 1990). Some of these species are also occasionally and locally found in deciduous forests on moist, rather fertile and humous soils. In North-America most species of Hygrocybe, many of them conspecific with European species, are widespread in a variety of forest types (Hesler & Smith, 1963). This ecological differentiation is not yet well-understood. On the Canary Islands permanent, old pastures are almost absent. The ‘monte-verde’ constitutes the exclusive habitat for Hygrocybe species in the Canary Islands. All 19 cited taxa for the Canary Islands have been collected as terrestrial saprotrophic elements in the ‘monte-verde’ as well as in mixed ‘monte-verde’-pine forests (Beltrán, 1980; Bañares et al., 1980, 1991, 1992, 1994; Bañares & Beltrán, 1982; Beltrán et al., 1987, 1989; Bañares, 1988; Dähncke, 1998). Consequently, the ecological preferences of this genus show more affinity to North-America than to Europe.

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The present taxon was previously reported by Bañares et al. (1994) for the island of La Palma, where it was collected in humid sites of the 'monte-verde'. On that occasion, it was named Hygrocybe pratensis (Pers.: Fr.) Murril aff. var. pallida (Cooke) Arnolds because of its similarity to this taxon in habit, colours and microscopical details. It was noticed that the sporocarps were considerably smaller, and blackening
on drying. The latter feature was initially regarded as a possible anomaly. However, a second collection from the same locality shared the same characteristics. Therefore we decided to describe our collections as a new species in the subgenus *Cuphophyllus* Donk.

**Hygrocybe monteverdae** Bañares & Arnolds, *spec. nov.* — Figs. 1–4


Terrestrial, rare, among leaves in humid site of monte-verde forest, 800 m s.m., under *Laurus azorica* (Seub.) Franco, *Persea indica* (L.) K. Spreng, *Ilex canariensis* Poir. and *Dryopteris oligodonta* (Desv.) Pic.-Serm.

Collections examined. **SPAIN:** Canary Islands, La Palma, MAB Reserve El Canal y Los Tilos (Puente-Nuevo), 1 Feb. 1991, Á. Bañares 6456 (holotype TFC; isotype in L); 10 Dec. 1998, Á. Bañares 8295 (TFC).

**Hygrocybe monteverdae** is a typical representative of subgenus *Cuphophyllus*. It is rather similar to *H. pratensis* (Pers.: Fr.) Murrill var. *pallida* (Cooke) Arnolds (= *H. berkeleyi* (P.D. Orton) P.D. Orton & Watling), but it differs in its smaller and more slender sporocarps, blackening lamellae and darker brown pilei when drying. In addition, *H. monteverdae* has a more compact pileipellis, without erect hyphae, and slightly larger spores. It differs from *H. virginea* (Wulf.: Fr.) P.D. Orton & Watling and allied species, except for the blackening lamellae, in the not hygrophanous, not striate pileus.

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