TWO NEW MYCENAS OF SECTION FRAGILIPEDES
FROM SOUTHERN NORWAY.

A. ARONSEN
Torødveien 54, N-3135 Torød, Norway

Mycena austera and Mycena parca, belonging to section Fragilipes, are proposed as new species. Mycena austera is identified mainly by the 4-spored basidia, the absence of clamp connections, the dark pileus, and the nitrous odour. The species is compared with M. leptocephala and M. deceptor. Mycena parca is compared with M. leptocephala from which it differs mainly on account of the absence of nitrous odour, and differently shaped cheilocystidia and terminal cells of the cortical layer of the stipe.

Section Fragilipes (Fr.) Quél. is the largest section in Mycena, and in spite of the impressive work by Maas Geesteranus (1988) there still seem to occur undiscovered species. Mycena austera and M. parca, found in the County of Vestfold in southern Norway, do not match any of the species described so far.

Mycena austera Aronsen, spec. nov. — Figs. 1–7


Fibulae desunt.

Terricola. Basidiomata gregaria vel caespitosa.


Etymology: Austerus, dark.

Basidiomata gregarious to cespitose. Pileus up to 20 mm across, conical to convex, flattening with age, mostly with a prominent umbo, translucent-striate, sulcate, hygrophanous, fairly dark grey with a darker, greyish brown to almost black centre, the margin paler to whitish. Odour nitrous. Taste not recorded. Lamellae 26–30 reaching the stipe, ascending, narrowly adnate, with or without a short decurrent tooth, 1 mm broad (dry), somewhat intervenose with age, grey to dark grey, the edge convex, paler. Stipe up to 50 × 3 mm, straight to somewhat curved, terete, hollow, glabrous (at least in older specimens), pale grey at the apex, darker greyish downwards, paler than the pileus, the base densely covered with long, coarse, flexuous, whitish fibrils.

Basidia 29–35 × 8–9 μm, clavate, 4-spored, clampless, with plump sterigmata 9–12 μm long. Spores 9.3–11.0(−12.5) × 5.1–6.5 μm, pip-shaped, smooth, amyloid. Cheilo-
Mycena austera

cystidia 50–103 × 13–24 × 3.5–6.5 μm, occurring mixed with basidia, fusiform, clampless, smooth. Pleurocystidia numerous, similar.

Lamellar trama brownish vinessent in Melzer’s reagent. Hyphae of the pileipellis 2.7–6.3 μm wide, clampless, covered with simple to very much branched excrescences 2.5–22.5 × 2 μm which tend to become covered with gelatinous matter; terminal cells 45–70 × 12.5–24 μm, variously shaped, subcyllindrical, fusiform, clavate, frequently covered with coarse excrescences 4.5–11 × 2.5 μm. Hyphae of the cortical layer of the stipe 1.8–2.5 μm wide, clampless, smooth to sparsely covered with simple, cylindrical excrescences 1.8–4.5 × 1.8–2.5 μm; terminal cells (caulocystidia) 2.5–10 μm wide, with few to fairly numerous, coarse excrescences.

Growing terrestrial among grass and fallen leaves under Salix.


Following the key to sect. Fragilipes (Maas Geesteranus, 1988), M. austera comes close to M. deceptor Maas G., but there are several differences. In the former species the pileus is dark grey and centrally almost black, 26–30 lamellae reach the stipe, and the smell is nitrous. In M. deceptor the pileus is pale vinaceous brown, dingy brown or greyish brown, 14–22 lamellae reach the stipe, and the smell is indistinctive. In addition M. deceptor has a smaller pileus (4–8 mm), whitish lamellae and a narrow stipe (0.5–0.75 mm wide). Microscopically there seems to be little to separate the two species, but in M. austera the hyphae of the pileipellis are gelatinizing while they are not in M. deceptor. The conspicuous, variously shaped terminal cells of the pileipellis in M. austera may also be a decisive difference.

Macroscopically the material was first mistaken for M. leptoccephala (Pers.: Fr.) Gillet, but it can be told apart from that species on account of the absence of clamp connections, the cheilocystidia occurring mixed with the basidia, the conspicuous terminal cells of the pileipellis, and the differently shaped caulocystidia. (4-spored M. leptoccephala may also very rarely occur devoid of clamps (Maas Geesteranus, 1991: 548).)

The presence or absence of clamps is generally a very reliable character in Mycena, but there are a few exceptions (Aronsen, in prep.). Taking into account the remote possibility that the species described here would be found in a form possessing clamps too, there is still no other species known to fit the description.

Mycena parca Aronsen, spec. nov. — Figs. 8–12


Leg. A. Aronsen (A 16/92) (O); isotypus, No. 998.279-774 (L).

Etymology: Parcus, stingy, referring to the avarice of the fungus to form caulocystidia.
Basidiomata gregarious. Pileus 7–15 mm across, parabolical, at first pruinose, glabrescent, translucent-striate, sulcate, grey. Odour not distinct. Taste not recorded. Lamellae 17–22 reaching the stipe, ascending, narrowly adnate with a short tooth, grey with white edge. Stipe up to 60 × 1.5 mm, straight, terete, hollow, glabrous, apically pale grey, grey-brown below, the base covered with long, coarse, flexuous, whitish fibrils.

Basidia c. 27 × 7 μm, clavate, 4-spored, clamped, with sterigmata c. 7 μm long. Spores 7.0–9.0 × 4.5–6.0 μm, pip-shaped, smooth, amyloid. Cheilocystidia 38–68 × 9–16 × 2.5–5 μm, forming a sterile band, lageniform, clamped, smooth. Pleurocystidia similar, not numerous. Lamellar trama brownish vinescent in Melzer's reagent. Hyphae of the

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Pileipellis 2.7–4.5 μm wide, clamped, but clamps hard to find, not very densely covered with cylindrical, curved to flexuous excrescences 4.5–18 × 1.8–2.2 μm. Hyphae of the cortical layer of the stipe 1.6–3.5 μm wide, clamped, smooth, terminal cells scarce, 45–65 × 5.5–7 μm, clavate.

Collected among needles under Juniperus communis.


The species keys out near M. fragillima, M. subexcisa, M. subcana, and M. leptocephala (Maas Geesteranus, 1988: 48), of which M. leptocephala seems to be the closest. There are, however, several deviating features. Mycena leptocephala is usually nitrous-smelling, with the lamellae rather darker grey, and the pileus often more brownish grey. The cheilocystidia in M. parca are predominantly lageniform, the hyphae of the pileipellis are generally unbranched, and with no tendency to gelatinize, and the end cells of the cortical layer of the stipe are scarce and fairly narrow. The cheilocystidia in M. leptocephala are variously shaped, but rarely lageniform, the hyphae of the pileipellis are often branched, and with a tendency to become somewhat gelatinized, and the end cells of the cortical layer of the stipe are much more numerous and more inflated.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. R.A. Maas Geesteranus, Leiden, who through the years always has encouraged and inspired my Mycena studies. He has been very helpful with the Latin diagnosis, and he has also provided the microscopical figures.

I am also grateful to Dr. K. Høiland, Oslo for reading an early draft of the manuscript.

REFERENCES