

MYCENA DASYPUS, A NEW MEMBER OF SECTION POLYADELPHIA

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Mycena dasypus, collected in Surrey (England), is described as a new species in section *Polyadelphia*.

The species described in this short note is one of those humble fungi which are easily passed over unnoticed. And the area where *Mycena dasypus* was found – old heathland now under management to clear encroaching trees such as *Pinus silvestris*, *Quercus*, and *Betula* – hardly gives the impression of being prime terrain for mycological novelties. In fungi, however, and more especially if one concentrates on the smaller denizens, the unexpected is the rule.

Mycena dasypus Maas G. & Læssøe, *spec. nov.*³ — Figs. 1–5

Basidiomata solitaria vel bina. Pileus (siccatu) 2–3.5 mm latus, hemisphericus vel plano-convexus, centro depressus, sulcatus, minute pruinosis, griseo-albidus. Caro tenuis, pallida, odore saporeque ignotis. Lamellae c. 10 stipitem attingentes, adscendentes, adnatae, albae, margine concolores. Stipes 8–15 × 1 mm, apice minute pruinosis, albidus, deorsum purpureo-brunneus, basi fibrillis radiantibus, crassis, albidis substrato affixus.

Basidia (immatura) c. 22.5 × 6.5–7 µm, clavata, 4-spora, fibulata. Sporae 7.2–9.8 × 3.6–4.6 µm, amyloideae. Cheilocystidia 12.5–14.5 × 6.3–10.5 µm, clavata vel obpyriformia, fibulata, surculis simplicibus, cylindraceutis 2–4.5 × 1 µm instructa. Pleurocystidia nulla. Trama lamellarum iodi ope vivescens. Hyphae pileipellis 2.5–4.5 µm latae, fibulatae, surculis simplicibus vel ramosis 1.8–5.5 × 1–2 µm obtectae. Hyphae stipitis corticales 1.8–3.5 µm latae, fibulatae, surculis sparsis, simplicibus, cylindraceutis 1.8–2.7 × 1.3–2 µm munitae.

Ad sarmenta Pini et *Quercus*.

Holotypus: T. Læssøe & B.M. Spooner TL-2360 (K).

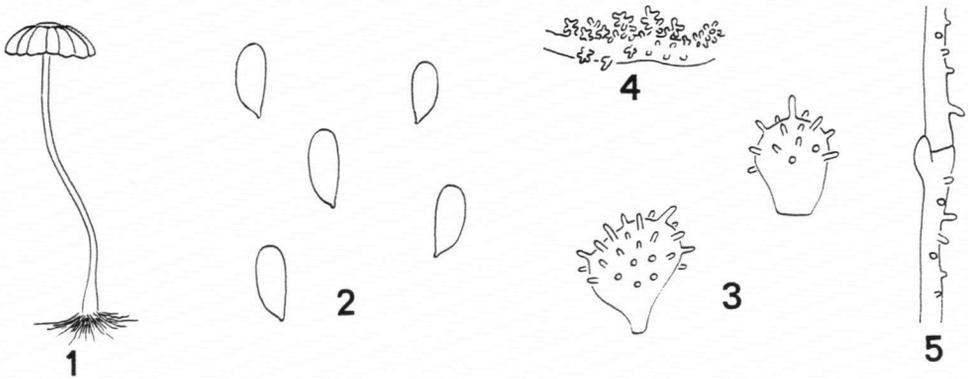
Basidiomata solitaria or in twos. Pileus (dried) 2–3.5 mm across, hemispherical to plano-convex, somewhat depressed at the centre, sulcate, minutely pruinose, greyish white. Flesh thin, pallid. Odour not noted, taste not recorded. Lamellae c. 10 reaching the stipe, tender, ascending, less than 0.5 mm broad, somewhat ventricose, adnate, white, the edge convex, concolorous. Stipe 8–15 × 1 mm, hollow, fragile, equal for the greater part, terete, curved, apically minutely pruinose, glabrescent farther below (but see remarks), whitish above, purplish brown below, arising from a dense patch of radiating, long, coarse, whitish fibrils.

Basidia (none seen mature) c. 22.5 × 6.5–7 µm, clavate, with four incipient sterigmata, clamped. Spores 7.2–9.8 × 3.6–4.6 µm, elongated pip-shaped, almost cylindrical.

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2) Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England.

3) Etymology: δᾶσῦσ, hairy; ποῦσ, foot.



Figs. 1–5. *Mycena dasypus* (holotype). 1. Habit; 2. spores; 3. cheilocystidia; 4. fragment of a hypha of the pileipellis; 5. hyphae of the cortical layer of the stipe. (Fig. 1, c. $\times 2.5$; all others, $\times 700$.)

cal, smooth, amyloid. Cheilocystidia $12.5\text{--}14.5 \times 6.3\text{--}10.5 \mu\text{m}$, forming a sterile band (lamellar edge homogeneous), clavate to obpyriform, clamped, covered with fairly few, evenly spaced, simple, cylindrical, straight excrescences $2\text{--}4.5 \times 1 \mu\text{m}$. Pleurocystidia absent. Lamellar trama vivescent in Melzer's reagent. Hyphae of the pileipellis $2.5\text{--}4.5 \mu\text{m}$ wide, clamped, covered with simple to much branched excrescences $1.8\text{--}5.5 \times 1\text{--}2 \mu\text{m}$. Hyphae of the cortical layer of the stipe $1.8\text{--}3.5 \mu\text{m}$ wide, clamped, sparsely covered with simple, cylindrical, straight excrescences $1.8\text{--}2.7 \times 1.3\text{--}2 \mu\text{m}$. Hyphae of the basal patch $2.7\text{--}4.5 \mu\text{m}$ wide, aseptate, with thickened, colourless cell-walls.

Very common on site, mostly on *Pinus* litter but also on twigs of *Quercus*.

Holotype: 'Fungi britannici / *Mycena dasypus* Maas G. & Læssøe / England, Surrey, Esher Common / 21 Jan. 1990 / T. Læssøe & B.M. Spooner TL 2360' (K).

Additional material. 'Essex, Epping Forest, High Beeches / 13 Oct. 1991 / A. Henrici, on *Rubus* twig in litter' (K).

Except for the colours of the pileus and the lower part of the stipe mentioned by the collector, the description of the species is entirely based on the dried material.

Unfortunately, the type collection is somewhat scanty, while two of the specimens investigated proved to have been invaded by a parasitic fungus whose coarse hyphal ends, sticking out on all sides, simulate cheilocystidia and caulocystidia. It is not impossible that under the influence of the impaired condition large portions of the surface layers of pileus and stipe of the *Mycena* appear collapsed or covered with amorphous matter which greatly hampers observation. In spite of these shortcomings, however, the species is unmistakably recognizable as a member of section *Polyadelphina* Sing. ex Maas G. It comes near *Mycena juncicola* (Fr.) Gillet and *M. culmigena* Maas G. on account of a purplish colour, the presence of clamps, and the large spores, but it differs from both. From the former it can be separated by the greyish white pileus, the regularly shaped cheilocystidia, the aseptate hyphae of the basal patch, and the different substratum. *Mycena dasypus* differs from the latter by the colour of both its pileus and lamellae, longer spores and cheilocystidia, and its very conspicuous basal patch made up of aseptate hyphae.

If for some reason the purplish brown shade of the stipe in *M. dasypus* should prove to be not the natural or the usual colour, the species keys out (Maas Geesteranus, 1986: 161) near *Mycena herbarum* Sing. and *M. lohwegii* Sing., both of which are equally easily separable from the present taxon.

REFERENCE

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