

MYCENA VERNA, A NEW SPRINGTIME SPECIES OF  
SECTION FRAGILIPEDES FROM GERMANY

R.A. MAAS GEESTERANUS

Rijksherbarium / Hortus Botanicus, P.O. Box 9514, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands

*Mycena verna*, a vernal species collected in western Germany, is described as a member of section *Fragilipedes* and compared with other species of the section.

Recently, the Rijksherbarium received two dried specimens of an agaric, along with macroscopical notes and a colour photograph. The collector, Mr. M. Meusers, Meerbusch, Germany, took the specimens home for inspection, only to discover under the microscope they were not the species he had expected to find: *Mycena abramsii* (Murrill) Murrill. The species appears to be an undescribed member of section *Fragilipedes*.

*Mycena verna* Maas G., *spec. nov.* — Figs. 1–5

Basidiomata caespitosa. Pileus 15–30 mm latus, e convexo applanatus, late umbonatus, striatus, siccus, leviter pruinosis, pallide flavido-brunneus, centro obscurior. Caro odore tenui, subalcalino. Lamellae 28–33 stipitem attingentes, molles, adscendentes, c. 2 mm latae, ventricosae, anguste adnatae vel dente decurrentes, aetate venosae, albidae, margine concolores. Stipes 60–70 × 2–3 mm, cavus, fragilis, aequalis, cylindraceus, siccus, levis, glaber, pallide brunneolus, sursum albidus, basi albo-fibrillosus.

Basidia 27–30 × 7–8 µm, clavata, 4-sporigera, fibulata. Sporae 8.5–9.8 × 5.2–5.4 µm, inaequilateraliter ellipsoideae, leves, amyloideae. Cheilocystidia 30–36 × 5.5–9 × 2.7–4.5 µm, haud numerosa, subfusiformia, sublageniformia, fibulata, levia. Pleurocystidia similia. Trama lamellarum iodi ope rubrobrunnea. Hyphae pileipellis 3.5–6.5 µm latae, fibulatae, diverticulatae. Hyphae stipitis corticales 1.5–2.5 µm latae, fibulatae, leves.

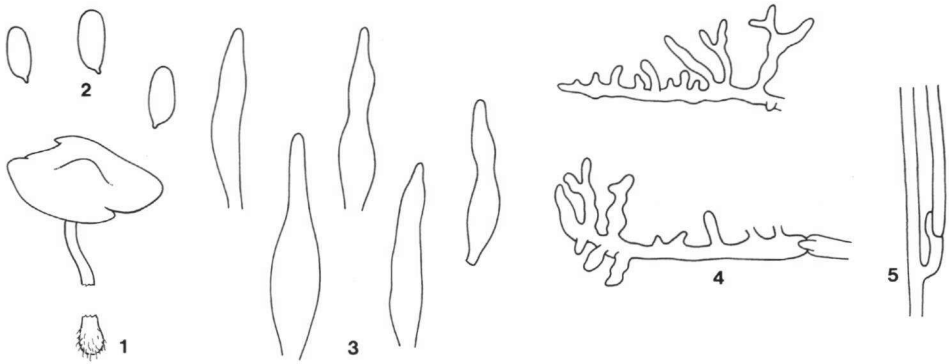
Ramicola.

Holotypus: *M. Meusers E3487* (L, No. 996.157-274); isotypus: Herb. M. Meusers.

Etymology: vernus, appearing in the spring.

Basidiomata caespitose. Pileus 15–30 mm across, at first convex, then flattening, with broad umbo, translucent-striate, dry, finely pruinose beige-brownish, darker at the centre. Context with weak alkaline odour. Lamellae 28–33 reaching the stipe, tender, ascending, c. 2 mm broad, ventricose, narrowly adnate or decurrent with a tooth, venose-anastomosing at the base, whitish, with concolorous edge. Stipe 60–70 × 2–3 mm, hollow, fragile, equal, terete, dry, smooth, fully glabrous, pallid-brownish, apically whitish, the base densely covered with whitish fibrils.

Basidia (immature) 27–30 × 7–8 µm, clavate, 4-spored, clamped. Spores 8.5–9.8 × 5.2–5.4 µm, pip-shaped, Q = 2.2, smooth, amyloid. Cheilocystidia 30–36 × 5.5–9 × 2.7–4.5 µm, not numerous, not forming a sterile band, hardly protruding, subfusiform, sublageniform, clamped, smooth. Pleurocystidia similar to the cheilocystidia, scarce. Lamellar trama red-brown in Melzer's reagent. Pileipellis a cutis of repent, radiately aligned hyphae which



Figs. 1–5. *Mycena verna* (holotype). 1. Pileus and basal part of the stipe; 2. spores; 3. cheilocystidia; 4. fragments of the hyphae of the pileipellis; 5. hyphae of the cortical layer of the stipe. — Fig. 1,  $\times 0.5$ ; all others,  $\times 700$ .

are 3.5–6.5  $\mu\text{m}$  wide, clamped, not embedded in gelatinous matter, covered with simple to furcate, cylindrical to somewhat irregular, moniliform excrescences 2–18  $\times$  2.5–4.5  $\mu\text{m}$ . Hypoderm made up of hyphae with inflated cells. Hyphae of the cortical layer of the stipe 1.5–2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  wide, clamped, smooth, not embedded in gelatinous matter.

Growing on a fallen, decayed branch of a broad-leaved tree.

Holotype: 'Fungi germanici, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Mönchengladbach, 7 May 1994, M. Meusers, E3487' (L, 996.157-274); isotype: herb. M. Meusers (P.O. Box 2355, 40646 Meerbusch, Germany).

*Mycena verna* is a member of section *Fragilipedes* and seems, at least in the key to the species (Maas Geesteranus, 1988a: 45), to be close to *Mycena subexcisa* (P. Karst.) Sacc. The arguments for this supposed proximity are (1) diverticulate hyphae of the pileipellis which are not embedded in gelatinous matter; (2) presence of pleurocystidia; (3) and a rather large number of lamellae. *Mycena verna* differs, however, from *M. subexcisa* (Maas Geesteranus, 1981a: 228) among other things in the occurrence among broad-leaved trees, caespitose habit, fully glabrous stipe, hardly prominent cheilocystidia, manifestly broader spores, those of *M. subexcisa* being  $Q =$  about 1.8.

Among the European members of section *Fragilipedes*, there are two further vernal species which exhibit a caespitose or subfasciculate habit and grow on debris of deciduous trees. These are *M. abramsii* (Murrill) Murrill (Maas Geesteranus, 1988a: 50) and *M. laevigatoides* Maas G. (1988b: 132). The former species may already be recognized in the field by its raphanoid smell when collected, as well as by the copious, watery juice when its stipe is broken. Microscopically, *M. abramsii* may be told by most of the cheilocystidia having sharp-pointed necks. The second species can be distinguished from *M. verna* by the ivory white pileus, its pruinose stipe and the cheilocystidia forming a sterile band.

If a combination of features such as smooth cheilocystidia, presence of pleurocystidia, diverticulate hyphae of the pileipellis and smooth hyphae of the stipe cortex may be considered an indication of close affinity, *Mycena verna*, *M. fragillima* A. H. Smith (Maas Geesteranus, 1988a: 79) and *M. leptocéphala* (Pers.: Fr.) Gillet (Maas Geesteranus, 1988b: 134) would have to be regarded as related species. However, both *M. fragillima* and *M. leptocéphala* deviate from *M. verna* in having striking caulocystidia.

The names of two species should be briefly mentioned on account of possible confusion. *Mycena vernalis* Velen. (1920: 316), to all appearance (Maas Geesteranus, 1984: 316), is no other than *Mycena galericulata* (Scop.: Fr.) S.F. Gray.

*Mycena vernalis* H. von Post ex Lundell (1937: 187), subsequently renamed *Mycena majalis* Lundell (Lundell & Nannfeldt, Fungi exs. succ., praes. upsal., Fasc. 19–20: 46. 1941), was discovered by Moser to be identical with *Mycena strobilicola* Favre & Kühn. (Maas Geesteranus, 1981b: 436).

#### REFERENCES

- Lundell, S. 1937. Three undescribed vernal agarics. *Mycena vernalis* H. v. Post in sched., *Clitocybe verna* Egeland in sched., and *Entoloma vernum*. Svensk bot. Tidskr. 31: 186–195.
- Maas Geesteranus, R. A. 1981a. Studies in Mycenas 26. Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (Ser. C) 84: 221–231.
- Maas Geesteranus, R. A. 1981b. Studies in Mycenas 28–34. Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (Ser. C) 84: 431–438.
- Maas Geesteranus, R. A. 1984. Studies in Mycenas 147. Velenovský's Mycenas described in České houby. Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (Ser. C) 87: 305–317.
- Maas Geesteranus, R. A. 1988a. Conspectus of the Mycenas of the Northern Hemisphere – 9. Section Fragilipedes, species A–G. Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (Ser. C) 91: 43–83.
- Maas Geesteranus, R. A. 1988b. Conspectus of the Mycenas of the Northern Hemisphere – 9. Section Fragilipedes, species I–R. Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (Ser. C) 91: 129–159.
- Velenovský, J. 1920. České houby. Praha.