

AN UNUSUAL FORM OF TRECHISPORA VAGA

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During an excursion of the Dutch Mycological Society to the Bois de Resteigne (prov. Namur, Belgium) in 1977, a curious lignicolous clavate fungus was found growing out of a resupinate basidiocarp. Since the clavate body had the same colour as the resupinate part, a possible relationship between the two parts was supposed but seemed highly improbable since no such large structures connected with a thin resupinate basidiocarp are known up to now. The resupinate part showed a yellowish-brownish colour, stained slightly reddish in a diluted solution of KOH and was easily identified as *Trechispora vaga* (Fr.) Liberta, owing to its monomitic hyphal system, inflated and clamped hyphae, small four-spored basidia which often develop a lateral, basal outgrowth (pleurobasidia), and small, hyaline, inamyloid spores densely covered with warts.

The clavate body was hanging out of the centre of the resupinate part and was up to 12 cm long and 9 cm wide. The point of attachment was rather narrow, ranging from a few millimeters in the small body to a few centimeters in the larger one. The surface was yellowish and showed at the marginal parts small, cup-shaped depressions caused by guttation drops. A longitudinal section reveals a yellowish context with small, darker spots (much more pronounced in dried condition) and a distinct concentric zonation, probably demonstrating the successive growth of the fungus. The whole clavate body is sterile and shows no traces of hymenial formation or conidium production. The hyphal structure is monomitic and shows the same cylindrical, partly inflated hyphae which deviate in no way from the hyphae of the underlying perfect state. There is no doubt that the sterile, clavate structures belong to *Trechispora vaga*, with the resupinate basidiocarp of which they were intimately connected.

There are some other short sterile outgrowths known from different resupinate species, mostly caused by a cover of the fungus with leaves etc., but these large clavate bodies growing out of a

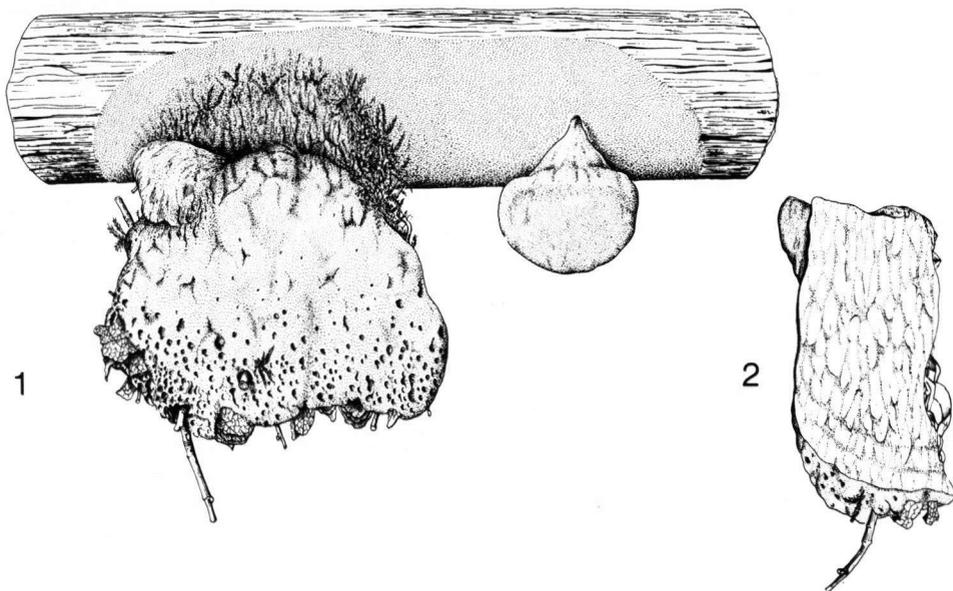


Fig. 1. Upper surface of two sterile, clavate bodies growing out of the resupinate, fertile part of *Trechispora vaga* (Fr.). Half natural size.

Fig. 2. Longitudinal section through the large sterile body. Half natural size.

thin resupinate fungus and hanging freely down are a 'novum' for Aphylophorales. There are no suggestions about what could have caused such a structure, since the underlying resupinate part seemed to be excellently developed and showed no signs of deformation or abnormality. Another fact makes an explanation equally difficult, viz. the presence of other resupinate basidiocarps of the same species in the immediate vicinity, supposedly growing under the same ecological conditions.

This collection shows that resupinate species may be able to produce quite differently shaped large structures and it would be very interesting to look for similar structures in other species, in the hope that eventually the causal factors may be found.