# Some species of Hyphodontia s.l. with encrusted cystidial elements

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Some species in *Hyphodontia* or related genera with encrusted cystidia are discussed. The type specimens of the following species have been studied: *Grandinia erikssonii*, *Hyphodontia heterocystidiata*, *H. wrightii*, *Hypochnicium odontioidescens*, *H. rickii*, *Palifer seychellensis*, and *Peniophora verecunda*. All all them except *P. seychellensis*, belong to *Hyphodontia* s.l. Based on morphological characters of the generic type, *Palifer* could be considered a synonym of *Xylodon*.

Key words – Corticioid fungi – Hypochnicium – Lagarobasidium – Palifer – Xylodon

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#### Introduction

Hyphodontia J. Erikss. contains several а variable microspecies with and macromorphology, but as a rule easily to distinguish by the usually odontioid to hydnoid hymenophore, hyphae generally with distinct to somewhat thickened walls with small semicircular clamps, and cylindrical to suburniform basidia. A great variation is found in the presence of cystidial elements, from slightly differentiated hyphal ends, to thickelements. lagenocystidia, walled tubular encrusted cystidia, leptocystidia, septocystidia, usually not conspicuous gloeocystidia, and so on. The genus thus defined seems quite artificial and several molecular studies show that Hyphodontia is polyphyletic (Binder et al. 2005, Larsson et al. 2006). However the limits and relationships between most of the species Hyphodontia s.l. are still unclear. in Hyphodontia s.str., as defined by the generic type Gonatobotrys pallidula Bres. [=H.pallidula (Bres.) J. Erikss.], includes species with both, septocystidia and lagenocystidia (even the abundance and presence of cystidial elements may vary from few to absent among the species) (Parmasto 1968, Hjortstam 1983).

Phylogenetically, H. pallidula, H. alutaria (Burt) J. Erikss., and H. arguta (Fr.) J. Erikss., are supported in an isolated clade differentiated from most of the species in Hyphodontia s.l. al. 2006). Hyphodontia (Larsson et (N. Hjortstam sphaerospora Maek.) & arguta Ryvarden (≡*Grandinia* var. sphaerospora N. Maek.), and H. subdetritica S.S. Rattan (=H. propingua Hjortstam) seem to be morphologically related to H. pallidula in Hyphodontia s.str. Also phylogenetically isolated is a group of Hyphodontia with thickwalled tubular cystidia of tramal origin, reclassified recently in the genus Kneiffiella P. Karst., with Hydnum barba-jovis Bull. as the type species. Many of the remaining species cluster in a quite well supported clade where Odontia quercina Pers., the generic type of Xylodon (Pers.) Gray, is present. There it is found a mixture of species with variable cystidial elements, but often not more than distinct hyphal ends, conical to more commonly capitate, rarely septate, smooth to variably encrusted. The previous subdivision of Hyphodontia s.l. in small morphologically related entities was recently proposed by

Hjortstam & Ryvarden (2002, 2009) and subsequently followed by Bernicchia & Gorjón (2010). To date, the more complete study on the phylogeny of the *Hymenochaetales* (Larsson et al. 2006) separates a well differentiated Kneiffiella clade, Hyphodontia clade (with species of Hyphodontia s.str. intermingling with genera as Spahaerobasidium Oberw. and Tubulicrinis Donk), and a Coltricia clade where most of the remaining species in Hyphodontia s.l. are present together with a subclade formed by species of Coltricia Gray and Coltriciella Murrill. Schizopora Velen., a genus separated from Hyphodontia mainly by the more or less poroid hymenophore, is also included in the clade with the type species of *Xylodon*. At least in two species of Schizopora (vid. S. cystidiata A. David & Rajchenb., a rare species reported from two localities in Africa and China (David & Rajchenberg 1992, Dai 2012) and S. flavipora (Berk. & M.A. Curtis ex Cooke) Ryvarden, a common species in the Northern Hemisphere), encrusted cystidial elements or ends also hyphal are present. Also. Echinoporia Ryvarden, with an hymenophore with angular to irpicoid pores and characterized by arthroconidia produced in bristles on the abhymenial surface, present species with lagenocystidia (vid. E. aculeifera (Berk. & M.A. Curtis) Ryvarden and E. hydnophora (Berk. & Broome) Ryvarden).

Palifer Stalpers & P.K. Buchanan was accommodate described to Peniophora verecunda G. Cunn., a species from New Zealand with resupinate smooth hymenophore and microscopically characterized above all by the presence of smooth, thin-walled tubular cystidia, encrusted cystidial elements, and capitate hyphal ends (Stalpers & Buchanan 1991). Hjortstam & Ryvarden (2007) included in *Palifer* the next species originally described from Argentina: Hyphodontia gamundiae Gresl. & Rajchenb., H. hjortstamii Gresl. & Rajchenb., and H. wrightii Hjortstam & Ryvarden, however differing from Р. verecunda in the odontioid hymenophore and the absence of the thin-walled tubular cystidia. Later, Hjortstam & Ryvarden (2009) indicated the possibly that *P. verecunda* was a species fairly isolated and the three other combined taxa needed further studies. Dämmrich &

Rödel (2010) described *Palifer seychelensis* Dämmrich & Rödel from Seychelles, however, a deviating species from the concept of *Palifer*.

The following list comprises some species of *Hyphodontia* s.l. with encrusted cystidial elements, most of them previously classified in *Palifer*, as well the study of a number of type specimens of species of doubtful position. *Palifer* was emphasized by the presence of encrusted cystidia, not narrowed in a needle apical part as typical lagenocystidia. As a rule, this kind of cystidia is easily recognized in some South American species combined in *Palifer* and they are useful for a quick identification. Anyhow, when increasing the number of specimens studied limits between not typical encrusted cystidia and lagenocystidia become less obvious.

## Methods

For light microscopic studies, samples were mounted in 3% potassium hydroxide (KOH), Melzer's reagent (IKI), sulfobenzaldehyde, and 0.1% cotton blue in 60% lactic acid to determine cyanophily. Line drawings were made with a camera lucida attachment. Herbarium acronyms follows Thiers (2012). Some isotypes were deposite in the Centro de Investigación y Extensión Forestal Andino Patagónico (CIEFAP, Esquel, Argentina).

## Taxonomy

## Species included in Hyphodontia s.l.

*Hyphodontia erikssonii* (M. Galán & J.E. Wright) Hjortstam & Ryvarden, in Hjortstam et al., Syn. Fung. 20: 63, 2005.

*≡Grandinia erikssonii* M. Galán & J.E. Wright, Darwiniana 32: 251, 1993.

The species has encrusted cystidial elements of the same kind of *H. gamundiae* and *H. hjortstamii*. In the original publication basidiospores of *H. erikssonii* are described as broadly ellipsoid,  $4-5 \times 3-3.5 \mu m$  (Galán et al. 1993), but comparing the holotype with authentic specimens of *H. hjortstamii* basidiospore size and shape is almost identical. Regarding strictly morphology both species can be considered conspecific, and *H. hjortstamii* probably should be treated as a

latter synonym of H. erikssonii. H. erikssonii is only known from tropical and subtropical areas in Argentina (type locality) and Venezuela where it has also been cited by Hjortstam et al. (2005). H. hjortstamii is, contrary, a common species in the Patagonian Andes forests. It would be desiderable to perform mating tests of South American specimens of H. erikssonii hjortstamii and Н. to evaluate the conspecificity also from a biological perspective.

Material examined – Argentina, Prov. Bonariae, Videla Dorna, ad *Salix babylonica*, May 1972, Deschamps et al., BAFC 31920 (holotypus).

*Hyphodontia gamundiae* Gresl. & Rajchenb., Mycologia 92: 1159, 2000.

*≡Palifer gamundiae* (Gresl. & Rajchenb.) Hjortstam & Ryvarden, Syn. Fung. 22: 9, 2007.

*Hyphodontia gamundiae* is a species distributed in the Argentinean and Chilean Patagonia (Greslebin & Rajchenberg 2003, Gorjón & Hallenberg 2012) and Colombia (Hjortstam & Ryvarden 2007). It is typical member of *Hyphodontia* s.l., with characteristical encrusted cystidia and narrowly ellipsoid basidiospores.

Material examined – Argentina, Chubut, National Park Los Alerces, 520 m, on dead wood of *Nothofagus dombeyi*, 6 May 2011, coll. S.P. Gorjón 3325 (in CIEFAP). Argentina, Neuquén, National Park Nahuel Huapi, Victoria Island, 820 m, on dead wood of *Nothofagus dombeyi*, 10 Dec 2009, coll. S.P. Gorjón 2570 (in CIEFAP).

*Hyphodontia heterocystidiata* H.X. Xiong, Y.C. Dai & Sheng H. Wu, Mycol. Progress 8: 166, 2009.

The holotype of Hyphodontia heterocystidiata is composed by a whitish resupinate corticioid with minutely odontioid hymenophore covering a side of two small angiosperm branches. The species was orginally described bearing two kind of cystidia: capitate cystidia, and clavate to cylindrical leptocystidia (Xiong et al. 2009). Hyphae in the apex of the aculei are encrusted with round aggregate crystals. This kind of hyphal encrustation is similar to those present in the hyphae of Hyphodontia breviseta (P.

Karst.) J. Erikss. or H. nespori (Bres.) J. Erikss. & Hjortstam. Capitate cystidia are easily visible and abundant, mostly covered by a round cap of resinous matter. The long tubular and sinuous leptocystidia, can be interpreted as gloeocystidia, some of them are more or less constricted, and are comparable to those present in the *H. breviseta* group. Considering the previous features, H. heterocystidiata should be interpreted as a species belonging to the Hyphodontia breviseta complex in Hyphodontia s.l.

Material examined – Taiwan, Nantou, Huisun Forestry, alt. 750 m, on angiosperm branch, leg. S.H. Wu, 3 Jan 1999, TNM F0010235 (holotypus).

*Hyphodontia hjortstamii* Gresl. & Rajchenb., Mycologia 92: 1160, 2000.

*≡Palifer hjortstamii* (Gresl. & Rajchenb.) Hjortstam & Ryvarden, Syn. Fung. 22: 9, 2007.

Hyphodontia hjortstamii, so far known from the Patagonian Andes, is a species related to H. gamundiae, differing in the broader ellipsoid badiospores and slightly thickened in the former. It is a species very closely related or identical to H. erikssonii (see comments species). See Greslebin under this & (2000) for descriptions Rajchenberg and illustrations.

Material examined – Argentina, Chubut, National Park Los Alerces, 520 m, on dead wood of *Nothofagus dombeyi*, 26 Apr 2010, coll. S.P. Gorjón 2644 (in CIEFAP). Chile, X Region, Entre Lagos, Aguas Calientes, Trail Los Rápidos, 500 m, 22 Feb 2010, Valdivian rainforest, on deciduous wood, leg. L. & N. Hallenberg & S.P. Gorjón, coll. S.P. Gorjón 2640 (in CIEFAP).

*Hyphodontia rickii* (Hjortstam & Ryvarden) Gresl. & Rajchenb., Mycologia 92: 1161, 2000. *≡Hypochnicium rickii* Hjortstam & Ryvarden, Mycotaxon 15: 271, 1982.

*≡Lagarobasidium rickii* (Hjortstam & Ryvarden) Hjortstam & Ryvarden, Syn. Fung. 26: 46, 2009.

*Hypochnicium rickii*, a name based on *Odontia polycystidifera* J. Rick, 1959 nom. inval., is a species distributed in Southern Brazil and according to the original description differentiate by the granular to odontioid

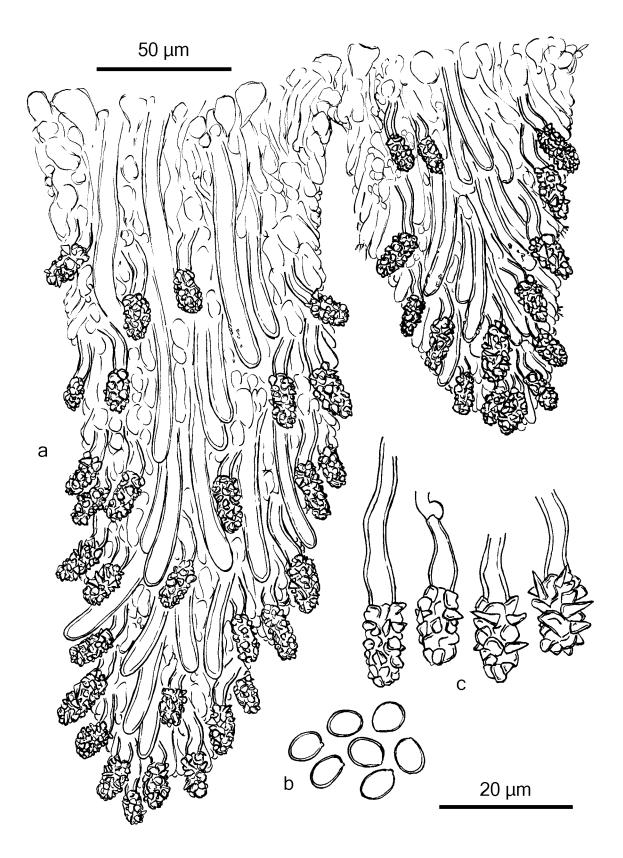


Fig. 1 – Hyphodontia rickii (holotype). Microscopical elements.  $\mathbf{a}$  aculei section.  $\mathbf{b}$  basidiospores.  $\mathbf{c}$  encrusted cystidia.

hymenophore, thick-walled and cyanophilous basidiospores, and two kind of cystidia: 1) numerous, thick-walled, and strongly encrusted and 2) few. thin-walled, capitate (Hjortstam & Ryvarden distinctly 1982). However, the examination of the holotype reveals that capitate cystidia are not conspicuous and absent from many parts of the basidiome, and they are more comparable with capitate poorly differentiate hyphal ends. The encrusted tubular thick-walled cystidia are similar to those of *H. erikssonii*, *H. gamundiae* and H. hjortstamii. In the core of the aculei, thick-walled, not or slightly encrusted cystidial elements, are present, and they are of the same kind of the encrusted cystidia. They may represent a variation of this, because their encrustation is variable and often dissolves in all reacting mounting media (Fig. 1). As indicated previously by Greslebin & Rajchenberg (2000), H. rickii, is somewhat similar to Hyphodontia magnifica Gresl. & Rajchenb. [=*Lagarobasidium* magnificum (Gresl. & Rajchenb.) Hjortstam & Ryvarden] cyanophilous and thick-walled by the basidiospores, but differing in the two kind of cystidia of the latter (the first, tubular and thick-walled, and the second, conspicuous and largely capitate, both types not encrusted). Greslebin & Rajchenberg (2000)also mentioned for H. rickii that "the encrustation (of the tubular cystidia) is similar to those present in H. gamundiae". Therefore, H. rickii belongs to the group of Hyphodontia s.l. with encrusted cystidial elements, not being a Jülich member of Lagarobasidium nor Hypochnicium J. Erikss.

Material examined – Brazil, S. Salvador, 5 Apr 1944, Rick 208 47, (in CIEFAP) (isotypus).

*Hyphodontia septocystidiata* H.X. Xiong, Y.C. Dai & Sheng H. Wu, Mycologia 102: 918, 2010.

It has been not possible to examine the holotype of *H. septocystidiata* but according to the original description and illustration, encrusted cystidia seem similar to those present in *H. gamundiae*, *H. hjortstamii*, *H. erikssonii*, and *H. rickii*. Xiong et al. (2010) indicated *H. erikssonii* and *H. rickii* as the closest relatives,

but with no indication of type or specimens examinations.

*Hyphodontia verecunda* (G. Cunn.) Hjortstam & Ryvarden, Mycotaxon 64: 237, 1997.

*≡Peniophora verecunda* G. Cunn., Trans. Roy. Soc. New Zealand 83: 262, 1955.

*■Palifer verecundus* (G. Cunn.) Stalpers & P.K. Buchanan, New Zealand J. Bot. 29: 339, 1991.

Peniophora verecunda, the generic type of *Palifer*, is a species of uncertain possition. It has three kind of cystidia: lagenocystidia, cylindrical cystidia, and capitate cystidia (Fig. 2). Lagenocystidia are similar to those of H. wrightii and H. alutaria, and they are variably shaped and not neccesary narrowed in a needle apical part. The type specimen differs from H. wrightii in the smooth hymenophore, a feature shared with H. alutaria. There is another specimen from Colombia (Hjortstam & Ryvarden 1997) where the hymenial surface is described as smooth or slightly grandinioid when well developed. Hjortstam & Ryvarden (1997) note in the comments that the type specimen is "rather young and thin, not showing the hymenial verrucae". In fact, examination of the holotype reveals a very thin specimen with no trace of hymenial aculei. Peniophora verecunda differs from species in Hyphodontia s.str. by the large thin-walled non-septate cylindrical cystidia, somewhat reminiscent of those present in Hyphodontia alutacea (Fr.) J. Erikss. From the holotype examination, cylindrical cystidia appears curved and partially collapsed, seemingly a kind of gloeocystidia but they do not show a particular coloration in KOH, Melzer's reagent, or sulfobenzaldehyde diverse from other elements (but it may be due to the age of the specimen collected in 1953). Cylindrical to tubular cystidia or more or less constricted gloeocystidia are also found in many species of Hyphodontia s.l. (vid. H. borealis Kotir. & Saaren., H. breviseta group, H. curvispora J. Erikss. & Hjortstam, Hyphodontia latitans (Bourdot & Galzin) Ginns & M.N.L. Lefebvre, *Hyphodontia* tenuicystidia Hjortstam & Ryvarden) as well capitate cystidia or hyphal ends. Hyphae in P. verecunda are deviating from typical Hyphodontia-like hyphae with

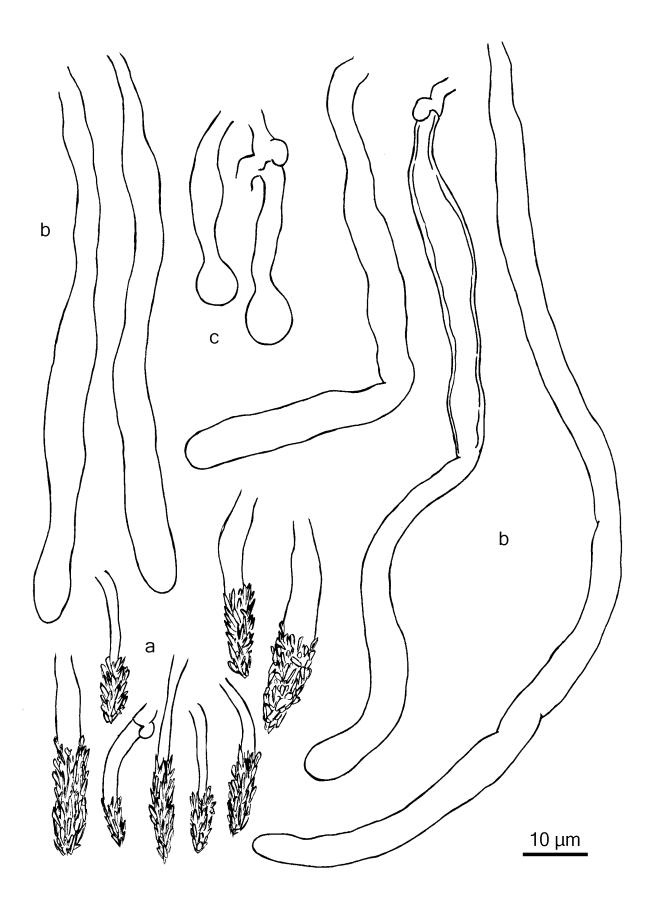


Fig 2 – Hyphodontia verecunda (holotype). a lagenocystidia. b cylindrical cystidia. c capitate cystidia.

small semicircular clamps, and some slightly ampullate sections and septa are found. From a molecular perspective, there are some doubts about the phylogenetic position of *P.verecunda* as only one specimen has been included in molecular analysis (Larsson et al.2006). According to the information provided in GenBank, this is a specimen from USA. not from the type locality. This specimen of *P.verecunda* takes an isolated position among the *Coltricia* clade in a subclade with the type species of Xvlodon (Larsson et al. 2006). As stated above, at least based on morphological data, P. verecunda shares many features with species in Hyphodontia s.l. (Xylodon) and there is no reason to keep the species in a separated genus.

Material examined – New Zealand, Auckland, Hauhangaroa Range, Taupo, 2.000 ft, on decayed decorticated wood of *Dacrydium cupressinum*, March 1953, J.M. Dingley, PDD 12513 (holotypus).

*Hyphodontia wrightii* Hjortstam & Ryvarden, Mycotaxon 25: 560, 1986.

*≡Palifer wrightii* (Hjortstam & Ryvarden) Hjortstam & Ryvarden, Syn. Fung. 22: 10, 2007.

The species is characterized by the hymenophore, subcylindrical granular basidiospores, and presence of lagenocystidia. Lagenocystidia in *H. wrightii* are cylindrical to subulate, not narrower in a needle apical part, the same kind of lagenocystidia are found in some species of Hyphodontia s.str. They are similar to those of Hyphodontia alutaria, even in the latter species septocystidia are distinctly present, but different to the encrusted cystidia of H. gamundiae and H. hjortstamii. H. wrightii lacks septocystidia, but contrary to the descriptions by Hjortstam & Ryvarden (1986) and Langer (1994), capitate cystidia with a resinous apical globule are easily seen in the holotype. All hymenial elements in the holotype (hyphae, basidia, lagenocystidia, and basidiospores), are strongly cyanophilous. There is a good microscopical illustration in Langer (1994: 235). H. wrightii is thus excluded from the concept of Palifer and, even lacking septate cystidia, it seems better classified in *Hyphodontia* s.str. by the presence of typical lagenocystidia.

Material examined – Argentina, Prov. Misiones, Iguazu Nat. Park., Cataratas de Iguazu. 1-5 March 1982, L. Ryvarden 19636, (in CIEFAP) (isotypus).

*Hypochnicium odontioidescens* Boidin & Gilles, Bull. Soc. Mycol. Fr. 116: 168, 2000.

The species was examined because according to the original description and notes it seemed a member of Hyphodontia s.l. (in the original description it was compared to H. rickii, the latter also referred to Hypochnicium by Boidin & Gilles 2000). The holotype shows intermediate microfeatures of Lagarobasidium and *Xylodon* by the monomitic hyphal system, skeletocystidia, stellate disperse encrustation, and thick-walled, cyanophilous basidiospores. Cystidial elements in H. odontioidescens are very variable in size and shape, but usually they are tubular to sinuous with thickened walls, and with an irregular subcapitate to capitate apical part, however in the type they often appears collapsed. It reminds in some aspects *Hyphodontia magnifica* Gresl. & Rajchenb., from Patagonia (Greslebin & Rajchenberg 2000), the latter differing in the conspicuous thick-walled cystidia and large capitate cystidia. As commented before for H. heterocystidiata, Н. odontioidescens may belong to the Hyphodontia breviseta complex (Xylodon) but I refuse to do a formal combination because the type specimen is scanty and in poor condition. According to molecular studies by Larsson et al. (2006) and Larsson (2007a, 2007b), Lagarobasidium detriticum (Bourdot & Galzin) Jülich, the generic type of Lagarobasidium, cluster close to generic type of Xylodon, and Lagarobasidium could be considered a latter synonym of Xylodon. There is some controversial about the previous statement, and Dueñas al. (2009)considered et Lagarobasidium a genus different from Hyphodontia and Hypochnicium. However, the reference specimens of Lagarobasidium they used in the analysis, cluster in Blast search the first with species of Hyphoderma Wallr. and the second get no clear result (noted by Karl-Henrik Larsson, comm. pers.).

Material examined – Réunion, Bellevue -85; 11635, sur *Cryptomeria japonica*, Bébour - 85, LY 11527 (holotype).

### Key to the species of Hyphodontia s.l. with encrusted cystidia or with lagenocystidia

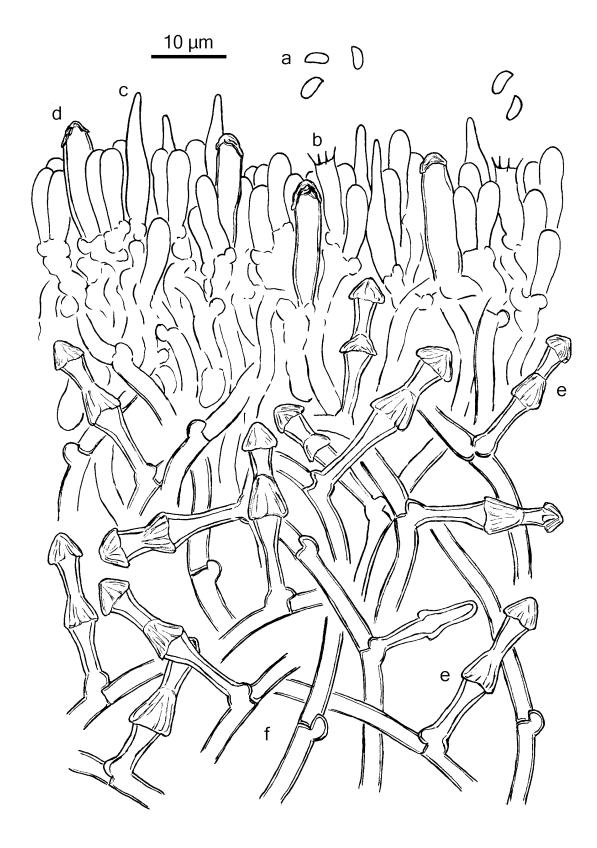
1. Thin-walled tubular cystidia present
<ol> <li>2. Basidiome effuse-reflexed to pileate, hymenophore irpicoid to poroid</li></ol>
<ul> <li>3. Arthroconidia produced in bristles on the abhymenial surface</li></ul>
<ul> <li>4. Arthroconidia longer than 10 μm</li></ul>
<ul> <li>5. Typical lagenocystidia present (with a cylindrical base and narrowed in a needle apical part)6</li> <li>5. Typical lagenocystidia absent but with encrusted hyphae-like cystidia</li></ul>
<ul><li>6. Hymenophore smooth to slightly grandinoid</li></ul>
7. Basidiospores $6-7.5 \times 4-4.5 \mu m$
7. Basidiospores 4.5–6 × 3.5–4 $\mu$ m <i>H. alutaria</i>
<ul> <li>7. Basidiospores 4.5–6 × 3.5–4 μm</li></ul>
<ul> <li>7. Basidiospores 4.5–6 × 3.5–4 μm</li></ul>
<ul> <li>7. Basidiospores 4.5–6 × 3.5–4 μm</li></ul>

#### Species excluded from Hyphodontia s.l.

*Palifer seychellensis* Dämmrich & Rödel, Z. Mykol. 76: 211, 2010.

This species is characterized above all by the characteristic subicular cystidial elements, a striking thick-walled hyphal projections with a double small umbrella-like cap. In the holotype, leptocystidia are not usually easily to distinguish and they can be interpreted as smooth cystidiols or slightly differentiate leptocystidia, but never comparable with the long cylindrical cystidia of *Peniophora verecunda*. (Fig. 3). A detailed description and illustrations are also found in Dämmrich & Rödel (2010). A new generic arrangement is needed for *P. seychellensis* and it will be studied in detail in a separate paper (Karl-Henrik Larsson, comm. pers.).

Material examined – Seychelles, Mahé, South West from Jardin du Roi, ca. 150-250 m, an liegendem, stark zersetztem Laubholzast, leg. T. Rödel, 4 Mar 2009, SEY073 in GLM, F092834 (holotypus).



**Fig. 3** – *Palifer seychellensis* (holotype). Microscopical elements. **a** basidiospores. **b** basidia. **c** leptocystidia or cystidiols. **d** encrusted hymenial cystidia. **e** subicular cystidia with a double umbrella-like cap encrustation. **f** subicular hyphae.

#### Discussion

As stated before, Hyphodontia can be considered a small genus restricted to species with septate cystidia and lagenocystidia or prudently we can wait for a more complete understanding of the whole group classifing most of the species under Hyphodontia s.l. I am conscious that most of the species discussed before can be properly classified in strictly *Xylodon* based in morphology, however, I prefer to be conservative and not to introduce new taxonomic changes and combinations until the whole group is molecularly resolved. It is clear that a more detailed study is neccesary, including species from both hemispheres, and combining morphological and molecular analysis, to have a more comprehensible vision of Hyphodontia s.l.

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