



TRAVAUX MYCOLOGIQUES

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SOLUTION TO A MYCOLOGICAL MYSTERY

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Résumé. — *Tyromyces caesiosimulans* Atk. est un *Tyromyces caesius* parasité par *Tremella polyporina* Reid.

Among the polypores (Homobasidiomycetes) in the genus *Tyromyces* there are a number of species whose identities are uncertain, because the types are sterile and lack the basidiospores which are critical for certain identification, or were collected in too young a condition, or for other reasons. One species of confused identity was *Tyromyces caesiosimulans* Atk., described by ATKINSON (1908, p. 61) from New York State, U.S.A. As the specific name implies, the fungus closely resembled the common *Tyromyces caesius* (Schrad. ex Fries) Murr. but differed in having pedicillate spores quite unlike the allantoid ones produced by *T. caesius*.

A partial solution was proposed by LOWE (1934, p. 81) who found on the type allantoid spores typical for *T. caesius*, and also reported that the pedicillate spores were borne on filiform hyphae which arose from the hymenial layer. OVERHOLTS (1953, p. 294) was unable to demonstrate pedicillate spores on basidia, and was of the opinion that *T. caesiosimulans* « is only [*Polyporus*] *caesius* parasitized by a hyphomycete ».

A restudy of the type of *T. caesiosimulans* in 1971 disclosed no new information. In September of that year I collected near Syracuse a specimen (Lowe 15167) of *Polyporus lacteus* Fries whose hymenium had abundant cruciate basidia bearing pedicillate spores. F. KOTLABA and Z. POUZAR of Prague suggested I compare a tremellaceous species recently described from Britain by REID, and the description and figures (REID 1970, p. 416 and Fig. I, i-k) established beyond doubt that *Tremella polyporina* Reid occurs in North America on the same host fungus as in Britain. It was realized that this fungus might be the explanation of the confusion in *T. caesiosimulans*. Restudy of the type specimen from the ATKINSON collection (at CUP) and of isotype material from the Farlow Herbarium (FH) confirmed the supposition. Pedicillate spores of the *Tremella* and allantoid spores of the host fungus *Tyromyces caesius* (Fig. 1 A) are readily found in mounts of the tubes. On crushing tremellaceous basidia in sectional

view (Fig. 1 B) and longitudinal view (Fig. 1 C) could be demonstrated. An additional specimen of *T. polyporina* from North America is known from Long Island, New York (BPI, Lloyd Herbarium 29851, and PAC, Overholts Herbarium 2243).

Because the name *Tyromyces caesiosimulans* was based on a type consisting of two discordant elements, it must be rejected according to Article 70 of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, 1961 edition.

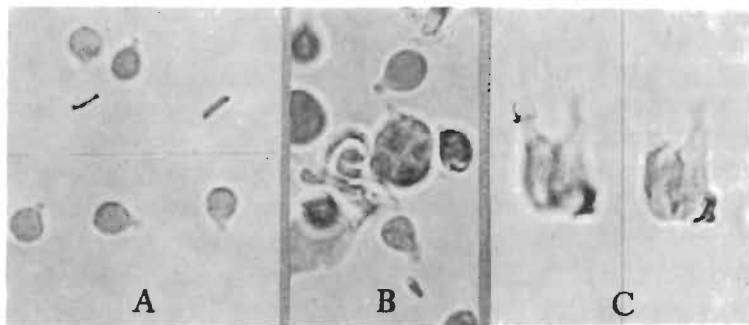


Fig. 1. — *Tremella polyporina* from the hymenium of the type of *Tyromyces caesiosimulans*, all X 1000. A, pedicillate spores of the *Tremella*, also two allantoid spores of the host fungus, *T. caesius*; B, a cruciate basidium; C, two side views of the same tremellaceous basidium.

Loan of the type material from the Department of Plant Pathology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York (CUP), and from the Farlow Library and Herbarium of Cryptogamic Botany, Cambridge, Massachusetts (FH), is gratefully acknowledged.

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