

Two *Lecidea* species, *L. meiocarpa* and *L. symmictella* (lichenized ascomycetes) confirmed for Switzerland

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Abstract: Two recent records of the lichen species *Lecidea meiocarpa* and *L. symmictella*, collected during a trip through southern and central Switzerland in 1996, are presented. According to the present literature, these two species were previously known only for Switzerland from before 1920. However, the recent record of *L. meiocarpa* appears to be new for the country because the old one is based on a misidentification. *Lecidea symmictella* is known from older records near the borderline of Switzerland, but is confirmed by a recent collection.

Zusammenfassung: Zwei Funde der Flechten *Lecidea meiocarpa* und *L. symmictella* aus der Süd- und Zentralschweiz werden behandelt. Nach der gegenwärtigen Literatur waren diese Arten in der Schweiz nur vor 1920 gefunden worden. Jedoch scheint der neue Fund von *L. meiocarpa* für das Land neu zu sein, da die alte Fundangabe auf einer Fehlbestimmung beruht. *Lecidea symmictella* scheint von älteren Berichten nahe der Schweizer Grenze bekannt zu sein, wird aber durch eine neue Aufsammlung bestätigt.

During a trip in the summer of 1996 through the Rhône valley (Canton du Valais) and the area near Brienz (Canton du Bern), 20 sites have been visited and 258 identified lichen taxa are published in BOOM & CLERC (2000). Two species, unidentified at that time are reported here – *Lecidea meiocarpa* NYL. and *L. symmictella* NYL. Both species have been found near the type-locality of *Gyalideopsis helvetica* v. D. BOOM & VĚZDA, a recently described species (BOOM & VĚZDA 2000). These two *Lecidea* species have already been mentioned for Switzerland by STIZENBERGER (1882, 1883) and MIGULA (1931). MIGULA (1931) just rementioned localities of STIZENBERGER (1882, 1883) without citing new localities. However, the STIZENBERGER (1882, 1883) concept of these two species has not been checked recently.

Regarding central Europe in TÜRK & POELT (1993) and HAFELLNER & TÜRK (2001), only *L. symmictella* is mentioned from Austria. In WIRTH (1995 a, 1995 b) or VĚZDA & LIŠKA (1999) there are no records of these species. In BOOM & al. (1993), the report of the summer field meeting to the Rhône valley (Switzerland) from the Dutch Bryological and Lichenological working group in 1990, 591 taxa are included but not one of these two *Lecidea* species. However, SCHOLZ (2000) reported both species from Germany and NIMIS (1993) gives (mainly older) reports for both species in the northernmost part of Italy which include the southern Alps.

Material labelled of *L. meiocarpa* and also *L. symmictella* has been found in G and studied for the present paper.

The species

Lecidea meiocarpa NYL.

syn. *Biatora meiocarpa* (NYL.) ARNOLD

The text in STIZENBERGER (1882, 1883) regarding this species is: "Ad cortices et ligna praesertim coniferarum: Zürich, Schaffhausen, ad Cerasorum cortices et radices arborum denudatas prope Mettmenstetten et Riffersweil imo ad lapides humidus prope Gossau. Etiam in alpes ascendit, ubi ad corticem Rhododendri non rara: in montibus Urnensibus, Grand Muveran".

L. meiocarpa has been studied by PRINTZEN (1995), but he has not seen specimens from central Europe (PRINTZEN, pers. comm.). In EKMAN (1994) it is mentioned that "All specimens of *B. meiocarpa* in H-NYL from Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Japan and USA (Alaska) are incorrectly determined. Reports from California (STIZENBERGER 1895, HASSE 1915) have not been checked but are probably incorrect". The only specimen in G with the name *Lecidea (Biatora) meiocarpa* NYL. (leg. HEGETSCHWEILER 5766 nearby Zürich from young *Quercus*), which I have studied belongs to *Lecania cyrtellina* (NYL.) SANDST. The ascospores, excipulum and (macro)conidia which were found are completely different from *L. meiocarpa*. *Lecania cyrtellina* is a species for which *L. meiocarpa* mostly is mistaken (EKMAN 1994).

The recent collections (V. D. BOOM 17784 & 17785) were growing on twigs of *Salix* along a path in a *Picea* forest. The spot was rather poor in lichen grow. *Lecidea meiocarpa* was growing in a community with mainly microlichens like *Arthonia muscigena* TH. FR., *Bacidia beckhausii* KÖRBER, *B. subincompta* (NYL.) ARNOLD, *Myxobilimbia tetramera* (DE NOT.) VITIK., AHTI, KUUSINEN, LOMMI & T. ULVINEN, and *Rinodina exigua* GRAY. Beside *Cladonia squammules*, the only macrolichen on *Salix* twigs was *Nephroma resupinatum* (L.) ACH.

This species belongs neither to *Lecidea* nor to *Biatora*, its taxonomic position is still undissolved (PRINTZEN, pers. com.).

Specimens examined: Switzerland: Kanton Valais, ENE of Sierre, N of Leuk, 1.5 km N of Albinen, Dorbugrabu, path in *Picea* forest, with *Salix*, 1600 m s. m., 2. 8. 1996, leg. P. V. D. BOOM 17784, 17785.

Lecidea symmictella NYL.

syn. *Agyrium caesium* FR.

Text in STIZENBERGER (1882, 1883) "Ad lignum Pinii". Dr P. CLERC was not able to find data in LETTAU (1919) regarding *L. symmictella* for Switzerland and even he could not find any text which could refer to this species in "Schweizer Flechten II" by LETTAU (1919).

Lecidea symmictella is rarely mentioned in the literature. The type-collection is from Sweden where the species is widely distributed, but rare. It is known to grow lig-

nicolous and muscicolous (SANTESSON 1993). PRINTZEN (1995) stated that the taxonomic position of this species is still unclear.

Three specimens from G have been studied, from the area of Genève, all from the 19th century, without further comments (see below), but most probably from the french territory. The material agrees well with the recent collection from Sierre, except the ascospores which are somewhat wider in the recent specimen. The recent collection of *L. symmictella* (V. D. BOOM 17753) has been found on a decorticated rotting big trunk along a (dry) stream, in a very shaded situation; accompanying species were *Absconditella lignicola* VÉZDA & PISÚT, *Catinaria atropurpurea* (SCHAERER) VÉZDA, *Gyalideopsis helvetica* V. D. BOOM & VÉZDA (type locality), and *Myxobilimbia sabuletorum* (SCHREBER) HAF.

This study proved that the specimens do not belong to the genus *Lecidea* but to *Lecanora*. However the *Lecanora symmicta* group is in revision by Dr C. PRINTZEN at the moment. The name of this species is erroneously listed in TÜRK & POELT (1993) and in HAFELLNER & TÜRK (2001) as *Lecanora symmictella* NYL. (Prof. HAFELLNER, pers. comm.).

Specimens examined: Switzerland: Kanton Valais, ENE of Sierre, N of Leuk, 0.2 km N of Albinen, along strong sloping stream, on rotting wood, 1260 m s. m., 2. 8. 1996, leg. P. V. D. BOOM 17753. Kanton Genève, area of Genève, "Herbier MÜLLER ARG. 1896"; - - area of Genève, 1888, leg. J. ROMME; ibid. 1883, 1884, leg. J. ROMME.

Conclusion

In spite of the citation in older literature, *L. meiocarpa* has only been collected in Switzerland recently. The only specimen of *L. meiocarpa* in G is *Lecania cyrtellina*. *Lecania symmictella* has been found in the 19th century in Switzerland or nearby the border line. However the recent collection is the confirmation that this latter species occurs in the country.

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