



A NEW DECOMPOSER OF *QUERCUS SUBER* (MOROCCO): *GYMNOPILUS LIQUIRITIAE* (PERS.) P. KARSTEN (1879).

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Abstract

A new crop of *Gymnopilus liquiritiae* (Pers.) P. Karsten (1879) was made for the first time in Morocco, in the Mamora forest on dead trunks of *Quercus suber*. The morphological and microscopic characters of this species are described and illustrated.

Key words: Morocco, forest, Mamora, lignicolous muschroom, *Gymnopilus liquiritiae*.

Introduction

During mycological work in Mamora, we found that the dead strains of *Quercus suber* are colonized by a large number of *Gymnopilus*. Among these species: *G. suberis*, *G. spectabilis*, *G. spectabilis* var. *junonia*, *G. sapineus*, and *G. penetrans* are species already described by Melençon & Bertault (1970). It now comes to add *Gymnopilus liquiritiae* which was inventoried for the first time in Morocco in this forest on the dead trunks of *Quercus suber*.

In this study, we described the morphological and microscopic characters of this species.

Description

Gymnopilus liquiritiae (Pers.) P. Karsten (1879), mushroom in clumps on the dead trunks of *Quercus suber*, harvest of 25-03-2006.

1. Macroscopic characters (Fig. 1. A and B):

The cap (8 cm in diameter) is plano-convex, smooth, viscous, yellow-brown, orange-brown, somewhat hygrophanous, with a thin margin, slightly curled when young. The stipe (5 × 0.6 cm) is smaller in diameter than the hat, hollow, fibrous, with a slightly bulbous base, rusty fawn becoming reddish brown. The blades (1.4 cm thick) are sub-decurrent. The flesh (0.5 cm thick) is pale, turning yellowish to russet after cutting, bitter in flavor. In the presence of NH₃ and KOH, the flesh of the stipe

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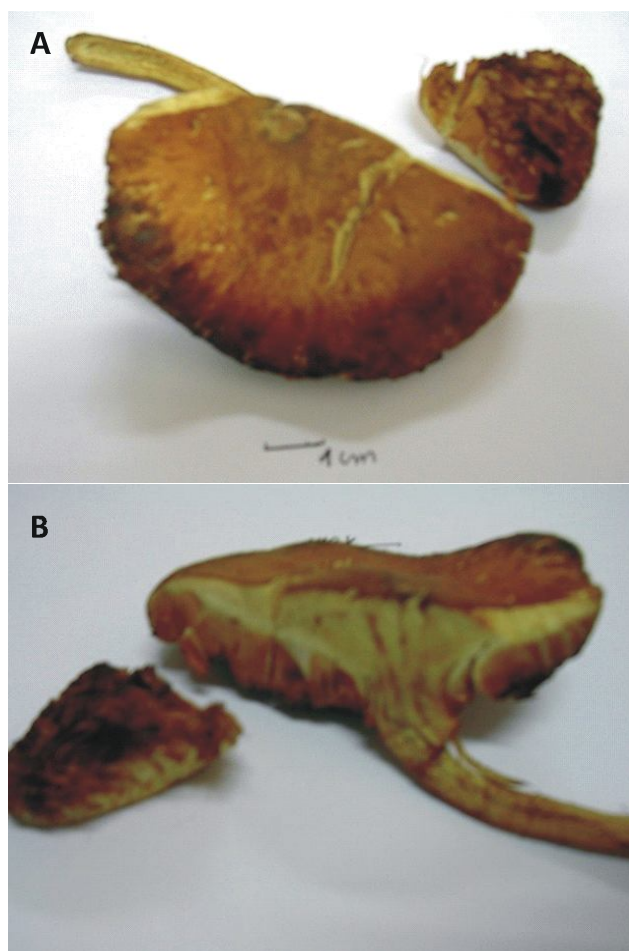


Fig. 1: Appearance of *Gymnopilus liquiritiae* carpophores on the dead trunk of *Quercus suber* A and B.

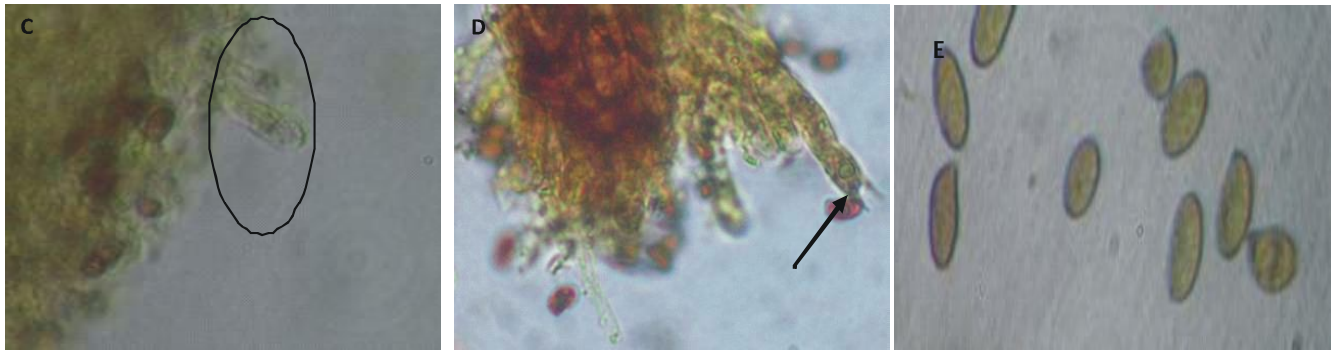


Fig. 1: Appearance of *Gymnopilus liquiritiae* carpophores on the dead trunk of cheilocystides C, basidia D and basidiospores ($\times 400$) and ($\times 1000$) E.

becomes light brown, and brown on the flesh of the cap. The flesh of the stipe is brown under the effect of NaOH, and immutable on the flesh of the hat.

2. Microscopic characters (Fig. 1. C, D and E):

The spores ($7.3-9 \times 4$ mm) are elliptical, warty. The basidia measure 26,6 mm in length. Cheilocystids (18×5 mm) are fusiform.

Discussion and conclusion

Harvests made in recent years clearly demonstrate the existence of other new *Gymnopilus* species for Morocco. For some of them, the available study material, still incomplete (number of specimens harvested) delays their identification.

Gymnopilus liquiritiae is a saprophytic species

unknown in the fungal flora of Morocco (Malençon and Bertault, 1970). It is characterized by a hollow stipe and a viscous cap. These characters are consistent with those of the specimens described in Europe by Rees *et al.*, (2001). Confusion is always possible with *Pholiota limonella* whose cap is also viscous but with rolled up scales, unlike *Gymnopilus liquiritiae*.

References

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