NOTES ON PROTOGLOSSUM (FUNGI: CORTINARIALES)

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ABSTRACT


INTRODUCTION

Bougher & Castellano (1993) introduced four new genera to accommodate mostly Australian species previously referred to Hymenogaster Vittad. Whilst the recognition of segregate genera is warranted, one of the new genera, Cortinomyces Bougher & Castellano, is illegitimate because its designated type (Protoglossum luteum Massee) is also the type of the earlier valid genus Protoglossum Massee. There is no doubt that P. luteum is the type of Protoglossum because it was the only species dealt with by Massee (1891) when he first described the genus. Cortinomyces is thus an obligate synonym of Protoglossum. Bougher & Castellano (1993) place seven species in Cortinomyces. The correct name for Cortinomyces luteus (Massee) Bougher & Castellano is P. luteum, C. effodiendus (G.Cunn.) Bougher & Castellano is treated here as a synonym of P. luteum, and new combinations in Protoglossum are proposed below for the other five species.

METHODS

Colour notations are from Munsell (1975; 1977). Observations on spores were made on small pieces of the tramal plates mounted in 3% KOH. Spore dimensions include neither ornamentation nor the hilar appendage. Q is the quotient of the length and the width of an individual spore.

NEW COMBINATIONS IN PROTOGLOSSUM

Protoglossum Massee, Grevillea 19: 97 (1891) Type: P. luteum Massee [only species].

1. Protoglossum cribbiae (A.H.Sm.) T.W.May comb. nov.

2. Protoglossum niveum (Vittad.) T.W.May comb. nov.
   Basionym: Hymenogaster niveus Vittad., Monogr. Tuberac. 24 (1831) [not seen, citation from Bougher & Castellano (1993)].
Cortinomyces niveus (Vittad.) Bouger & Castellano, Mycologia 85: 280 (1993) [as ‘(Cribb) Bouger & Castellano’].

3. Protoglossum purpureum (J.W.Cribb) T.W.May comb. nov.

4. Protoglossum violaceum (Massee & Rodway) T.W.May comb. nov.

5. Protoglossum viscidum (Massee & Rodway) T.W.May comb. nov.

PROTOGLOSSUM LUTEUM AND HYMENOGASTER EFFODIENDUS


Following Bouger & Castellano (1993), Hysterangium atratum is accepted as a synonym of P. luteum, which species is distinguished from P. viscidum by its less elongate spores. Bouger & Castellano (1993) note that there is a ‘very close similarity’ of microscopic characters between Hymenogaster effodiendus (known only from the type from Glenelg R., Victoria) and P. luteum, but choose to keep the two species separate pending the availability of further collections.

The sole distinguishing character which Bouger & Castellano (1993) use to justify the recognition of H. effodiendus is the ‘bright yellow peridium when young’ in contrast to the peridium of P. luteum which they describe as ‘copper red becoming dark brown’. In fact, Cunningham (1952) gives the colour of H. effodiendus as ‘when fresh bright yellow, drying reddish brown’, and in the original description of P. luteum, Massee (1891) mentions that the subterranean portion of the peridium is yellowish whilst the exposed portion is orange.
Four collections of *P. luteum* at MEL all have the distinctive subglobose to broadly ellipsoid spores [9.5–13 × 8–9(–10) μm, Q = 1.05–1.33(–1.44)] described by Bougher & Castellano (1993) for that species. Amongst these collections, one (*T. W. May M352 & B.A. Fuhrer*) when fresh had the upper peridium reddish brown (2.5YR 3/6, 4/6, 5/6) and the lower peridium yellow (2.5Y 7/6–8/8), but is more or less uniformly yellow after freeze drying. In an air dried collection (G. Beaton s.n.) both yellow and reddish brown colours are present in dried material. Another collection (*T. W. May 1065 & B.A. Fuhrer*) is yellow in a photo of fresh material, and after air drying is orange brown. Collections of *P. luteum* thus show a range of combinations of yellow and reddish brown colours, presumably related to age and degree of exposure of the peridium, and to the method of preservation. *Hymenogaster effodiendus* has peridium colours which fall within this range, and given that its micro-characters are identical to those of *P. luteum* (Bougher & Castellano, 1993), there is insufficient hiatus to warrant its recognition.

**COLLECTIONS EXAMINED**


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**REFERENCES**


Munsell (1975) *Munsell soil color charts*. (Munsell Color: Baltimore.)


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