

**Coniocybe** Ach.

(CALICIALES: CALICIACEAE s. l.: CONIOCYBACEAE)

After Tibell

Rev. 5/94

Thallus crustose, epi or endosubstratic, powdery, granular or disappearing, ecorticate. Photobiont Stichococcus, "Protococcus", or Trentepohlia. Apothecia stipitate on long, fine (delicate) stalks; disk (capitulum) initially flat, becoming lenticular to obconical or globose as the proper exciple is displaced; stalk tissue of  $\pm$  sclerotized, dark brown hyphae, or hyaline; stalk hyphae strictly periclinally arranged; true exciple well developed or almost completely lacking; mazaedium well developed; paraphyses threadlike; asci cylindrical to clavate, thinwalled, dissolving at an early stage. Spores hyaline to brown or yellowishbrown, spherical, globular, elliptic or elongate; wall often ornamented. Containing tetronic acid derivatives and quinonoid pigments. On bark or wood. Some parts of this description may need to be modified because they are based at least partly on species that are now treated by Tibell under Chaenotheca or other genera.

**1. Spores oblong.** Thallus very thin and mainly inconspicuous, sometimes showing as minute, scattered, yellowish green granules. Apothecia short to longer, 0.050.15 mm across, spherical to topshaped; mazaedium convex, yellow; exciple concolorous; stalk yellow, slender to somewhat enlarged towards the tips. Spores oblong, 5.5 x 2  $\mu$ m. Photobiont = ? On old wood, Massachusetts. [More info. on this species should be available from Tibell's treatment, and I don't know why I don't have it here]. ..... C. gracilescens Willey

**1. Spores spherical.** ..... 2

**2. Thallus epixylic or epiphloedal or on a thin layer of soil over wood; greenish yellow, well developed, leprose.** Capitulum yellow pruinose. Stalk black in lower part,  $\pm$  pale and yellow pruinose in upper part. Spores spherical, 2.33.3  $\mu$ m diam. .... (Chaenotheca furfuracea)

**2. Thallus endoxylic or endophloedal, not greenish yellow ( or if so, then very thin and scattered).** ..... 3

**3. Phycobiont Trentepohlia.** .....4

**3. Phycobiont of the Stichococcus or Protococcus type.** Stalk

black. ....5

**4. Stalk light yellowish.** Spores 69 um diameter. ....(Sclerophora pallida)

**4. Stalk dark brown,** naked to grayish pruinose. Apothecial envelope well set off from the stalk, naked to grayish pruinose. Spores 49 um diam. Apothecia at first sessile, then stalked up to 3.8 um high; mazaedium ochre, often white pruinose. Hypothecium pale brownish. Very scattered on deciduous trees, especially oaks. ....C. farinacea Nyl.

**5. Apothecia with a yellow pruina.** Stalk to 1 mm high. Spores spherical, 23 um diam. ....C. sulphurea auct. (C. sulphurea (Retz) Midd. & Mattsson = Chaenotheca brachypoda, but the "auct." taxon may be something else)

**5. Apothecia with a faint redbrown pruina visible particularly in young apothecia;** stalk 23 mm long, slender, often somewhat flexuous. Spores spherical, 2.53 um diam. ....(Chaenotheca gracillima)

## Literature

Awasthi. 19 . Microlichens of India, etc.

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