

Short Communication

***Ostropella luxurians* sp. nov. from the Russian Far East**

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***Ostropella luxurians* sp. nov. collected in the Russian Far East is described and illustrated.**Key Words—Lophiostomataceae; *Ostropella*; Russian Far East.

The genus *Ostropella* (Sacc.) Höhn. is rather poorly known. The most substantial contribution to our knowledge of its members seemed to be that made by Müller and Arx (1962), who included 10 species; but later Arx and Müller (1975) reported that some of them belong in *Lophiostoma* Ces. et De Not., while *Ostropella* was left only with 3 species. These were not precisely identified but one can infer that they are, at least, type species of *Ostropella* and two genera, namely, *Xenolophium* Syd. and *Ostreionella* Seaver, whose names were reduced to synonyms. Thus, these species are *Ostropella albocincta* (Berk. et Curt.) Höhn., *Ostropella levis* (Syd.) E. Müller, and *Ostropella fusispora* (Seaver) E. Müller. In addition, a second species of *Xenolophium*, *Xenolophium verrucosum* Syd., has been recognized as a member of *Ostropella* (Farr et al., 1989).

It was also reported that, within the Lophiostomataceae, *Ostropella* differs from *Byssolophis* Clem. only in the absence of a subiculum (Arx and Müller, 1975). However, Barr (1987) described the former as having "ascomata seated in subiculum" and arranged it in the Melanommataceae. This indication of a subiculum for *Ostropella* threatens the independent existence of both genera if they are placed in the same family, as often happens to them (Holm, 1986; Eriksson and Hawksworth, 1991). In the case of their unification, the name *Ostropella* has priority.

All species which are today recognized as belonging to *Ostropella* or were previously assigned to this genus have smaller spores in comparison with the specimen from the southern part of the Russian Far East. This warrants its description as a new species.

***Ostropella luxurians* Lar. Vassilieva, sp. nov. Figs. 1–3**

Ascomata superficialia, dispersa vel gregaria, globosa, nigra, 600–900 μm diam, ostiola cristiformi praedita. Asci bitunicati, cylindranei, octospori, paraphysati, 240–280 \times 18–22 μm . Ascospores sat magna, fuso-

ideae, medio septatae, brunneae, utrinque magis obscuratae, 42–50 \times 14–17 μm .

Holotypus: ad corticem arborum *Choseniae arbutifoliae* (Pall.) A. Skvorts., reservatio Kedrovaya Pad, regio Primorskensis, Russia, Lar. N. Vassilieva, 16. IX. 1993, in Herbario Institutionis Edapho-Biologicae Vladivostokensis (VLA) conservatus.

Ascomata superficial, scattered or crowded, globose, black, 600–900 μm in diam, with a prominent crest. Asci bitunicate, cylindrical, 8-spored, paraphysate, 240–280 \times 18–22 μm . Ascospores rather large, fusiform, 1-septate, brown, with darkened tips and smooth wall, 42–50 \times 14–17 μm .

Holotype: on the bark of *Chosenia arbutifolia* (Pall.) A. Skvorts., reserve Kedrovaya Pad, Primorsky Territory, Russia, Lar. N. Vasilyeva, 16. IX. 1993, VLA.

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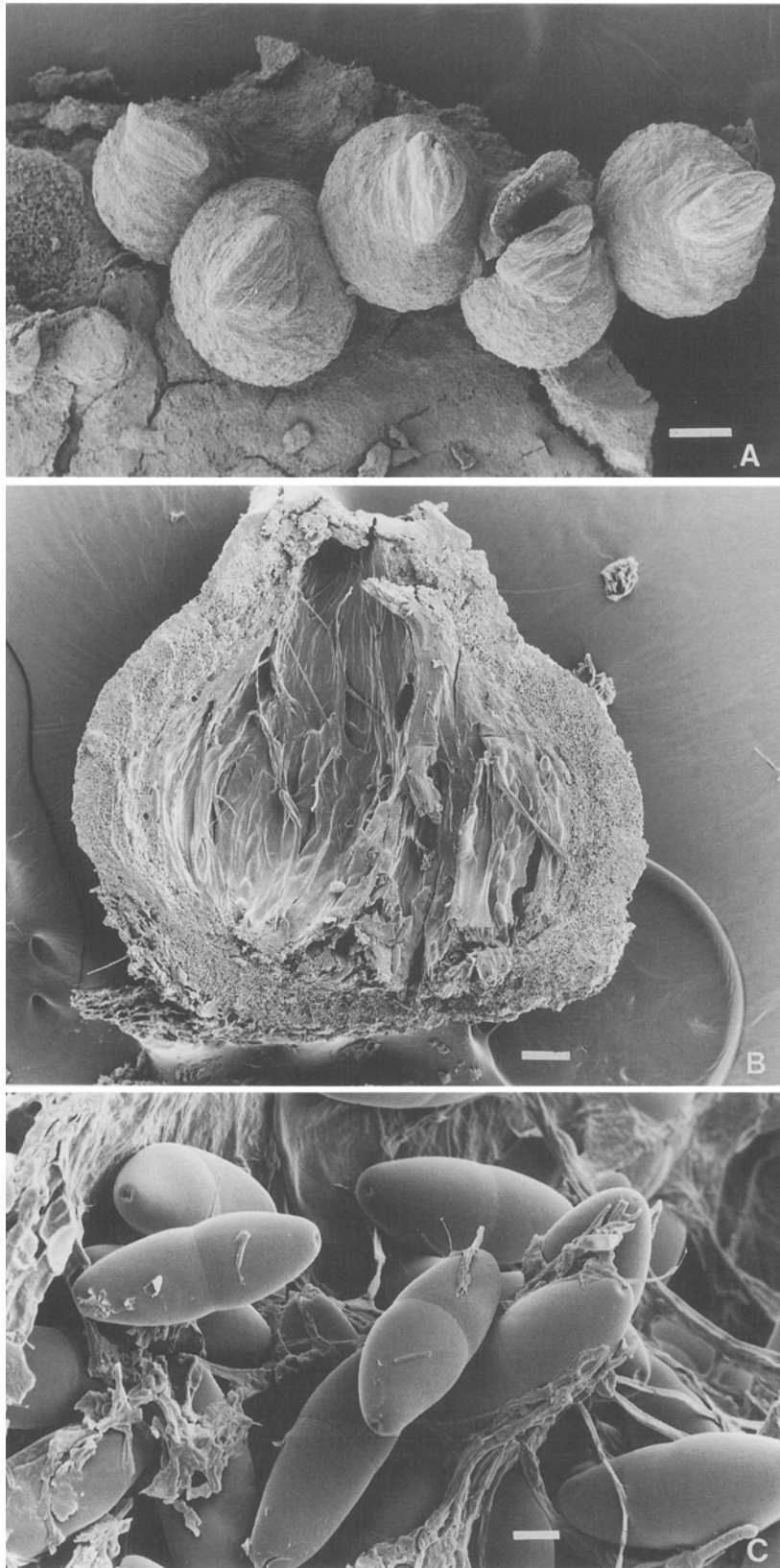


Fig. 1. *Ostropella luxurians*.
A. Ascocarps on a bark surface. B. Cross section through an ascocarp. C. Ascospores. Scale bars: A=200 μm , B=50 μm , C=5 μm .