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Systematic placement of *Lagarobasidium cymosum* and description of two new species

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Abstract:	<p><i>Lagarobasidium cymosum</i> is a rare corticioid species with characteristic morphology different from other <i>Lagarobasidium</i> species. We used nuc rDNA 5.8S, 28S and mit 12S rDNA loci to infer the phylogenetic position of <i>L. cymosum</i>. Our analyses suggest that it belongs to <i>Xylodon</i> but is not closely related to any of the other taxa referred to <i>Lagarobasidium</i>. Molecular and morphological information show that the traditional concept of <i>L. cymosum</i> covers at least three species: <i>Xylodon acuminatus</i> from the Neotropics, <i>X. cymosus</i> from North America, and <i>X. subtilissimus</i> distributed in both Europe and North America. <i>Lagarobasidium calongei</i> is transferred to <i>Xylodon</i> and DNA barcodes for <i>Lyomyces incrustatus</i> and <i>Xylodon hjortstamii</i> are published for the first time.</p>
Keywords:	Peniophora cymosa; <i>Xylodon</i> ; <i>Lyomyces</i> ; Hymenochaetales; phylogeny
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1 Systematic placement of *Lagarobasidium cymosum* and description of two new
2 species

3 Running Head: The systematics of *Lagarobasidium cymosum*

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13 ABSTRACT

14 *Lagarobasidium cymosum* is a rare corticioid species with characteristic
15 morphology different from other *Lagarobasidium* species. We used nuc rDNA
16 5.8S, 28S and mit 12S rDNA loci to infer the phylogenetic position of *L.*
17 *cymosum*. Our analyses suggest that it belongs to *Xylodon* but is not closely
18 related to any of the other taxa referred to *Lagarobasidium*. Molecular and
19 morphological information show that the traditional concept of *L. cymosum*
20 covers at least three species: *Xylodon acuminatus* from the Neotropics, *X.*
21 *cymosus* from North America, and *X. subtilissimus* distributed in both Europe
22 and North America. *Lagarobasidium calongei* is transferred to *Xylodon* and
23 DNA barcodes for *Lyomyces incrustatus* and *Xylodon hjortstamii* are published
24 for the first time.

25 **KEY WORDS:** *Peniophora cymosa*; *Xylodon*; *Lyomyces*; Hymenochaetales;
26 phylogeny.

27 INTRODUCTION

28 Jülich (1974) coined the genus *Lagarobasidium* Jülich for three corticioid
29 species with well-differentiated, thin- to slightly thick-walled cystidia,
30 suburniform tetrasporic basidia, and thick-walled basidiospores. Initially, the
31 genus included only three species, *L. cymosum* (D.P.Rogers & H.S.Jacks.)
32 Jülich, *L. nikolajevae* (Parmasto) Jülich, and *L. pruinatum* (Bres.) Jülich (the
33 generic type). Since then, six more names have been coined in
34 *Lagarobasidium*. Later, most of these taxa, including the type species, have
35 been transferred to either *Xylodon* (Pers.) Gray or *Hyphodontia* J. Erikss. sensu

36 stricto based on molecular and morphological data (Hjortstam and Ryvar-
37 2009, Riebesehl and Langer 2017, Viner et al. 2018).

38 The systematic placement of the two remaining *Lagarobasidium* species
39 has remained controversial. *Lagarobasidium cymosum* differs in having
40 acuminate cystidia more similar to other *Hyphodontia* s.l. such as *Hastodontia*
41 (Parmasto) Hjortstam & Ryvar-
42 2009, Riebesehl and Langer 2017, Viner et al. 2018).
43 However, the combination of such cystidia and other characters such as thick-
44 walled cyanophilic spores precludes assigning *L. cymosum* reliably to any
45 corticioid genus. The original description of the second species, *L. calongei* M.
46 Dueñas, Tellería, Melo & M.P. Martín, clearly shows its resemblance to the
47 *Lagarobasidium* taxa transferred to *Xylodon*. However, the nuc rDNA ITS
48 sequence of the type material (FM876212) places *L. calongei* outside *Xylodon*
49 (Dueñas et al. 2009). Therefore, this species has retained its generic name.

50 Depending on taxon sampling and the chosen method for phylogeny
51 inference, our preliminary phylogenetic analysis of nuc rDNA 28S resolved *L.*
52 *cymosum* either in *Xylodon* or in its closest relative *Lyomyces* P. Karst. In order
53 to clarify the generic placement of *L. cymosum*, we compiled a 3-loci dataset
54 (nuc rDNA 5.8S, 28S (D1–D4), and mit rDNA 12S) of *Lyomyces*, *Xylodon*,
55 and allied genera—the most comprehensive such phylogenetic dataset
56 available. We describe two relatives of *L. cymosum* as new species based on
57 molecular and morphological data. Additionally, we transfer *L. calongei* to
58 *Xylodon* based on its morphology and publish DNA barcodes for *Lyomyces*

58 *incrustatus* (Kotir. & Saaren.) Hjortstam & Ryvarde and *X. hjortstamii* (Gresl.
59 & Rajchenb.) Riebesehl & Langer for the first time.

60 MATERIALS AND METHODS

61 ***Morphological methods.***—Type specimens and collections from herbaria GB,
62 H, ISC, MA, and O were studied. Herbarium acronyms are given according to
63 Thiers (2022). Microscopic methods were described in Miettinen et al. (2006).
64 All measurements were made in Cotton Blue (CB, Merck 1275; Kenilworth,
65 New Jersey) with phase contrast illumination (1250×), which benefits over
66 bright-field microscopy are explained in Stein (1969). The following
67 abbreviations were used in microscopic descriptions: L—mean spore length;
68 W—mean spore width; Q—mean L/W ratio; n—number of elements
69 (basidiospores, basidia, cystidia, and hyphae) measured, which are followed by
70 the number of specimens studied. We excluded 5% of measurements from each
71 end of the range representing variation of basidiospores and cystidia. Excluded
72 extreme values were indicated in parentheses when they strongly differed from
73 the lower or higher 95% percentile.

74 ***DNA extraction and sequencing.***—Total genomic DNA was extracted from
75 herbarium specimens using a CTAB-chloroform extraction protocol (Kutuzova
76 et al. 2017). We used standard as well as genus-specific primers to amplify
77 complete nuc rDNA ITS1-5.8S-ITS2 (ITS), nuc 28S rDNA (28S), and mit 12S
78 rDNA (12S) for the focal taxa (TABLE 1). After amplification, PCR products
79 were run on a 1.5 % agarose gel stained with GelRed staining (Biotium,
80 Fremont, California) and visualized under UV light. PCR products were

81 purified from agarose gels using a Fermentas Genomic DNA Purification Kit
82 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Massachusetts). Sequencing reactions
83 were performed on an ABI 3730XL DNA analyzer (Applied Biosystems) by
84 MacroGen (Amsterdam, the Netherlands). A number of additional sequences
85 used in the analyses were retrieved from partial genomes as described in Viner
86 et al. (2021). All newly produced sequences used in this study have been
87 deposited in GenBank (TABLE 2).

88 ***Phylogenetic analyses.***—In addition to our newly produced data, we retrieved
89 all relevant sequences from GenBank (Benson et al. 2018), UNITE (Kõljalg et
90 al. 2013), and the Fungal Genomics Resource (<https://mycocosm.jgi.doe.gov>)
91 as of 16 February 2022.

92 High variability of ITS sequences in the focal genera does not allow
93 construction of a reliable all-encompassing alignment for *Lyomyces* and
94 *Xylodon* without blunt violation of phylogenetic homology principles. In an
95 effort to meet these principles, we confined to sequences that could be reliably
96 aligned. The resulted alignment contains only the *L. cymosum* complex—this
97 corresponds to 87% threshold of pairwise similarity between sequences—and
98 *X. borealis* (Kotir. & Saaren.) Hjortstam & Ryvarden as an outgroup. The latter
99 was selected based on the highest pairwise similarity (83%) to the *L. cymosum*
100 complex.

101 We constructed two additional datasets to find the proper generic (5.8S,
102 28S and 12S) and intrageneric (28S) placement for the *L. cymosum* complex.
103 The 28S dataset contains all major *Xylodon* clades and sequences of *Lyomyces*

104 and *Fasciodontia* Yurchenko & Riebesehl—the three genera are closely related
105 according to the multigene analyses in Wang et al. 2021. *Hastodontia* was
106 selected as an outgroup. The more conservative 28S locus allows for
107 assembling a reliable alignment across all these genera without discarding of
108 extensive poorly aligned fragments from further analyses. To compensate for
109 the weaker phylogenetic signal compared to ITS, we utilized a relatively large
110 fragment of 28S: domains D1–D4.

111 We chose a mitochondrial locus (12S) to supplement two nuclear ones
112 (5.8S+28S) for our concatenated dataset. 12S has already proven useful for
113 phylogenetic analyses of corticioid Hymenochaetales in Wang et al. (2021) and
114 Kolařík and Vohník (2017). Besides that, as a multicopy DNA locus, 12S
115 significantly increases the chances of successful PCR reaction. This was
116 especially relevant with extremely thin basidiocarps of the *L. cymosum*
117 complex. We have conducted independent analyses of the mitochondrial and
118 nuclear loci to corroborate the complimentary of the datasets. The resulted
119 topologies (not shown here) were similar and had no mutually exclusive
120 supported clades. The apparent difference was in lower clade support due to
121 the weaker phylogenetic signal of loci analyzed separately.

122 Alignments were calculated through the MAFFT 7.429 online server
123 (<https://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/server/>) using the L-INS-I strategy (Kato et al.
124 2017). After removing unalignable fragments, the length of the alignment and
125 the number of parsimony informative characters were correspondingly 1292

126 and 276 bp for the 28S alignment; 2144 and 359 bp for the 5.8S+28S+12S
127 concatenated alignment; 361 and 43 bp for the ITS alignment.

128 We inferred rooted phylogenetic trees with maximum likelihood (ML)
129 and Bayesian Inference (BI). Nucleotide substitution models for BI were
130 chosen with TOPALI 2.5 (Milne et al. 2008) based on the Bayesian
131 information criterion (BIC). We performed BI using MrBayes 3.2 (Ronquist et
132 al. 2012). In these analyses three parallel runs with four chains each and other
133 default parameters were run for one million generations. A burn-in of 25% was
134 used in the final analyses, ensuring the average standard deviation of split
135 frequencies had reached <0.01 for all data sets. When depicting phylograms,
136 the support for nodes is indicated when posterior probabilities are ≥ 0.90 . For
137 ML analyses, IQ-TREE 1.2.2 (Nguyen et al. 2015) with the best-fitted model
138 option was used. Bootstrapping was performed using the standard
139 nonparametric bootstrap algorithm with the number of replicates set to 1000.
140 Support for nodes is indicated with bootstrap values ≥ 80 .

141 **RESULTS**

142 BI and ML resulted in similar topologies for each analysis and relevant support
143 values were indicated at nodes in Figs. 1–3. Both 5.8S+28S+12S and 28S
144 analyses returned trees with a highly supported *Xylodon/Lyomyces* clade, to
145 which the *Lagarobasidium cymosum* complex belonged (Fig. 1, 2). The
146 analyses did not resolve basal relationships within the *Xylodon/Lyomyces*
147 cluster with high support. The *L. cymosum* species complex, represented by the
148 newly described *X. acuminatus* and *X. subtilissimus*, clustered at the deepest

149 split of *Xylodon*. Former *Lagarobasidium* taxa were not resolved as a
150 monophyletic clade: *X. detriticus* (Bourdot) K.H. Larss., Viner & Spirin and *X.*
151 *pruinus* (Bres.) Spirin & Viner (the type of *Lagarobasidium*) ended up in a
152 clade distant from the *L. cymosum* complex in both 5.8S+28S+12S and 28S
153 phylogenies (Fig. 1, 2). Our ITS analyses suggested at least three species in the
154 *L. cymosum* complex with *X. acuminatus* likely representing a species complex
155 itself (Fig. 3). *Lyomyces incrustatus* and *X. hjortstamii* clustered together with
156 other *Lyomyces* and *Xylodon* species correspondingly (Fig. 1, 2).

157 There were a number of 28S sequences with questionable species
158 assignment. The 28S sequence of Zhao 17855 (MW713737), the paratype of
159 the recently described *L. fumosus* C.L. Zhao, clustered together with *L.*
160 *incrustatus* in a clade, which was distant from the holotype of *L. fumosus*, Zhao
161 8188. The two sequences of *L. fumosus* had only a 93.5 % similarity, or 90 bp
162 difference. ITS of the corresponding specimens (MW713744 and MW713745)
163 were also clearly different, with a 94.2 % of pairwise similarity, or 37 bp
164 difference. Sequences of *L. fumosus* in the original alignment in TreeBASE (ID
165 27305) do not match any of the *L. fumosus* sequences deposited to GeneBank.
166 Similarly with *X. laceratus* C.L. Zhao, 28S (OL619266) of its holotype, Zhao
167 9892, clustered together with *X. tropicus* C.L. Zhao and was different from
168 another *X. laceratus* Zhao 9841 (OL619265), which was cited in the
169 protologue. The two sequences had only a 94.9 % similarity, or 70 bp
170 difference. That was, however, not the case with ITS of the same *X. laceratus*
171 specimens (OL619257 and OL619258): they both seem to belong to one

172 species. We, however, could not check the original alignment as it is not
173 searchable in TreeBase. Finally, the 28S sequence of the holotype of *X.*
174 *gossypinus* C.L. Zhao & K.Y. Luo, Zhao 8375 (MZ663813), is similar to its
175 paratype, Zhao 4465 (MZ663812), with the proviso that MZ663813 is missing
176 a 72 bp stretch of nucleotides in the middle of the sequence, so we discarded it
177 from the analyses.

178 Morphological differences between species in *Xylodon* and *Lyomyces*
179 complex are often small, but we have found reliable characters to distinguish at
180 least three species, which were previously covered by the traditional concept of
181 *Lagarobasidium cymosum*. We introduce two new species in the complex
182 supported by the results of our molecular and morphological analyses.

183 TAXONOMY

184 *Xylodon acuminatus* Viner & K.H. Larsson, sp. nov. FIG. 4

185 MycoBank MB 843702

186 *Typification*: BRAZIL. PERNAMBUCO: Jaqueira, Frei Caneca Reserve, Mata
187 do Cerrado Quenqo, an isolated fragment of Atlantic rain forest (Mata
188 Atlântica), on angiosperm bark, N -8.71590 E -35.84018 ±400 m, 21 Apr 2013,
189 *K.H. Larsson 16029* (holotype GB, isotype URM). GenBank: ITS+28S =
190 ON197552.

191 *Etymology*: *acuminatus* (Latin), acuminate, in reference to the acute cystidia.

192 *Description*: Basidiocarps effused, pruinose, arid, 0.1–0.2 mm thick,
193 prominent, up to 10 cm in widest dimension, no distinct margin. The color of
194 different basidiocarps varies from grayish to ochraceous. Hyphal structure

195 monomitic, hyphae clamped, thin- to slightly thick-walled, subparallel;
196 subicular (1.5) 1.8–3.6 (4) μm diam (n = 60/6), subhymenial 1.7–3.2 (3.5) μm
197 diam (n = 60/6). Cystidia frequent, projecting, hyaline, acuminate, thick-walled
198 along the proximal half, thinning to thin-walled closer to the apex (29) 34.2–
199 62.9 (87) \times (2.3) 3.3–6.0 (6.5) μm (n = 124/6). Rarely, cystidia have one or two
200 adventitious internal septa without a clamp. The tips of cystidia are sometimes
201 pin-shaped and often bend in mounted slides. Basidia four-sterigmate, ovoid to
202 broadly suburniform, sometimes slightly thick-walled at the base 6.5–12 \times 3.3–
203 5.9 μm (n = 60/6). Basidiospores smooth, thick-walled, ellipsoid to subglobose,
204 3.8–5.2 \times 3–4.3 (5) μm (n = 181/6), L = 4.59, W = 3.79, Q = 1.22, apiculus
205 prominent.

206 *Ecology and distribution:* *Xylodon acuminatus* as treated here is a Neotropical
207 species. It can grow on decayed wood as well as on bark of living trees and on
208 dead polypores.

209 *Other specimens examined:* BRAZIL. RIO GRANDE DO SUL: São Salvador,
210 on angiosperm wood, 1939, *J. Rick 16874* (PACA FR 16874, O F-506069);
211 SÃO PAULO: Santos, Cananéia, the Ilha do Cardoso State Park, on
212 angiosperm wood, 2 Feb 1987, *L. Ryvardeen 24882* (GB). COSTA RICA.
213 GUANACASTE PROVINCE: Tenorio Volcano National Park, Rancho Capu,
214 on a dead polypore from an angiosperm tree, 16 Jul 2001, *K.H. Larsson 11524*
215 (GB); PUNTARENAS PROVINCE: Monte Verde, Santa Elena Cloud Forest
216 Reserve, Youth Challenge trail, on bark of a living angiosperm tree, 13 Jul
217 2001, *K.H. Larsson 11294* (GB). ECUADOR. ORELLANA PROVINCE:

218 Yasuni National Park, on angiosperm bark, 1 Oct 2008, *L. Tedersoo 2008-10-*
219 *01* (TU110044). VENEZUELA. AMAZONAS STATE: Sanmaria, close to
220 Puerto Ayacucho, on angiosperm wood, 21 Apr 1999, *H. R. Urbina 216* (GB).
221 *Notes:* We have only two sequenced specimens of *X. acuminatus* at our
222 disposal while the third sequence included in the analysis (GU054154) came
223 from an environmental study. Considering genetic differences, the *X.*
224 *acuminatus* clade, as shown in Fig. 3, might be a species complex although we
225 found no morphological differences to support this. More comprehensive
226 sampling (both in terms of number of DNA loci and sequenced specimens) and
227 ideally mating tests will be required to resolve this problem.

228 Morphologically, *X. acuminatus* is distinguished from both *X. cymosum*
229 and *X. subtilissimus* by smaller basidia and spores. The basidiocarps are
230 prominent in dried condition, which is not the case for *X. subtilissimus* with
231 thin and inconspicuous basidiocarps. Cystidia in *X. acuminatus* differ from *X.*
232 *cymosus* by having a more delicate, thin-walled distal part, which often appears
233 bent in microscope preparations.

234 Before this study, the Brazilian taxon *Peniophora grisea* Rick ex Rick
235 (in Rambo (Ed.) *Iheringia Sér. Bot.* 4: 110. 1959) had been considered a
236 younger synonym of *Lagarobasidium cymosum* (Baltazar et al. 2016). We,
237 however, do not find this name referable to the *L. cymosum* complex and *X.*
238 *acuminatus* in particular. For a detailed discussion, see the taxonomy section of
239 *P. grisea*.

240 *Xylodon calongei* (M. Dueñas, Telleria, Melo & M.P. Martín) Viner, comb.

241 nov.

242 MycoBank MB 843704

243 Basionym: *Lagarobasidium calongei* M. Dueñas, Telleria, Melo & M.P.

244 Martín, Anales del Jardín Botánico de Madrid 66(S1): 42, 2009

245 Typus: PORTUGAL. AZORES: Pico, S. Roque, Meia Encosta de Sta. Luzia,

246 Travessa de Cima, on decayed wood, 26 Feb 2005, *M.T. Telleria 16187Tell*

247 (MA-Fungi 73256—holotype).

248 Notes: Dueñas et al. (2009) published ITS sequences of *Lagarobasidium*

249 *detriticum* (Bourdot) Jülich and a new similarly looking species from the

250 Azores, *L. calongei* (FM876211 and FM876212, respectively). They came to

251 the conclusion that *Lagarobasidium* was a good genus, which resolved as a

252 clade separate from any *Hyphodontia* sensu lato. Later Viner et al. (2018) and

253 Riebesehl et al. (2019) indicated an issue with data quality in Dueñas et al.

254 (2009). Their sequence of *L. detriticum* (FM876211) is based on a

255 misidentification or contamination during the laboratory process: it is fully

256 identical to several sequences of *Hyphoderma roseocremeum* (Bres.) Donk, a

257 species pertaining to Polyporales (e.g. UNITE database UDB031922). Blasting

258 FM876212 (allegedly *L. calongei*) against public databases does not return any

259 close hits. That sequence can hardly be attributed to any *Hyphodontia* neither

260 to Hymenochaetales.

261 Introducing *L. calongei* as a new species, Dueñas et al. (2009) indicated

262 characteristic thick-walled cystidia as a sole qualitative feature distinguishing it

263 from all other *Lagarobasidium*. Later Viner et al. (2018) have described a
264 similar species from Asia, *X. ussuriensis* Viner. We have studied the holotypes
265 of both species and find the same types of cystidia in both with the only
266 reliable micromorphological feature distinguishing the two species being larger
267 spores in *L. calongei*. The phylogenetic analyses in Viner et al. (2018) have
268 resolved *X. ussuriensis* as a member of *Xylodon* in the same highly supported
269 clade with two other former *Lagarobasidium* species: *X. pruinosis* (the generic
270 type of *Lagarobasidium*) and *X. detriticus*.

271 Considering all the above, we find it highly unlikely that FM876212
272 refers to the type of *L. calongei*. In an effort to corroborate our conclusion, we
273 endeavored to produce ITS for the type of *L. calongei* but failed to generate
274 even a fragment of ITS. Apparently, a freshly collected specimen from the
275 Azores would allow producing a DNA barcode for this species but it might not
276 be collected in the near future. Although we failed to support our conclusion
277 with molecular data, we feel that leaving *L. calongei* in a confusing status as
278 the last remaining *Lagarobasidium* species would be disadvantageous.
279 Therefore, we propose here the new combination *X. calongei*.

280 *Xylodon cymosus* (D.P. Rogers & H.S. Jacks.) Viner & Miettinen, comb. nov.

281 FIG. 5

282 MycoBank MB 843705

283 Basionym: *Peniophora cymosa* D.P. Rogers & H.S. Jacks., Canadian Journal
284 of Research 26(2): 133, 1948.

285 = *Lagarobasidium cymosum* (D.P. Rogers & H.S. Jacks.) Jülich, Persoonia

286 8(1): 84. 1974.

287 = *Hypochnicium cymosum* (D.P. Rogers & H.S. Jacks.) K.H. Larss. &

288 Hjortstam, Mycotaxon 5(2): 477. 1977.

289 Typus: USA. NORTH CAROLINA: Highlands, on coniferous wood, 17 Aug

290 1933, *G. V. Martin* 1321 (ISC-v-0046857—holotype).

291 *Description*: Basidiocarps effused, pruinose, arid, 0.1–0.2 mm thick,

292 prominent, up to 3 cm in widest dimension, no distinct margin. The color of

293 different basidiocarps varies from cream to ochraceous. Hyphal structure

294 monomitic, hyphae clamped; subicular hyphae slightly thick-walled,

295 subparallel, (2) 2.5–4.1 μm diam ($n = 40/4$), subhymenial hyphae slightly

296 thick-walled, subparallel, 1.8–3.5 μm diam ($n = 40/4$). Cystidia frequent,

297 projecting, hyaline, acuminate, thick-walled along the whole length including

298 tip (29)33–62 (72) \times (3) 3.4–5 (5.5) μm ($n = 80/4$); often with one (rarely two)

299 adventitious internal septa without a clamp. The tips of cystidia are sometimes

300 pin-shaped. Basidia four-sterigmate, broadly suburniform, distinctly thick-

301 walled at the base (7) 9–17 \times (3.5) 4–6 μm ($n = 40/4$). Basidiospores smooth,

302 thick-walled, ellipsoid to subglobose, 4.1–5.3 (6) \times 3.2–4.7 (5.7) μm ($n =$

303 120/4), $L = 4.87$, $W = 4.07$, $Q = 1.20$, apiculus prominent.

304 *Ecology and distribution*: *Xylodon cymosus* is a rare conifer dwelling species,

305 so far known from the temperate and boreal zones of eastern North America.

306 *Specimens examined*: CANADA. ONTARIO: Bear Island, Lake Timagami, on

307 partly decayed coniferous wood, 19 Aug 1936, *R. Biggs* 10785 (GB-0103557);

308 10837 (GB-0103556). USA. NORTH CAROLINA: Highlands, on coniferous
309 wood, 17 Aug 1933, *G. V. Martin* 1321 (holotype of *Peniophora cymosa*, ISC-
310 v-0046857); Swain Co. Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Clingmans
311 Dome, on a natural stump of *Abies fraseri*, 1 Oct 2015, *O. Miettinen* 19606
312 (H7200259).

313 *Notes:* *Xylodon cymosus* can be distinguished from other similar-looking taxa
314 treated here by more pronounced thickening of the cell walls in cystidia: even
315 the acute tips are clearly thick-walled. Besides they develop adventitious septa
316 more often than cystidia in *X. acuminatus* and *X. subtilissimus*. These two
317 features are important in identifying North American *cymosus*-looking
318 specimens since *X. cymosus* might share the same habitat with its relative *X.*
319 *subtilissimus* (see below). According to our phylogenetic analyses (Fig. 3), the
320 closest relative of *X. cymosus* is neotropical *X. acuminatus*. In addition to
321 stable morphological differences across all studied specimens, non-overlapping
322 geographical distribution prevents confusing between these two species.

323 ***Xylodon subtilissimus*** Viner & Spirin, sp. nov. FIG. 6

324 MycoBank MB 843703

325 *Typification:* RUSSIA. LENINGRAD REGION: Tikhvin District, Korbenichi,
326 old-growth (ca. 140 years old) spruce forest with ferns, on a very rotten log of
327 *Picea abies*, N 60.143216 E 34.486059, 22 Aug 2018, *V. Spirin* 12228
328 (holotype H7074041). GenBank: ITS+28S = ON188818.

329 *Etymology:* *subtilissimus* (Latin), the most subtle, in reference to the most
330 inconspicuous basidiocarp among all *Xylodon* species we are aware of.

331 *Description:* Basidiocarps effused, pruinose, arid, 0.1 mm thick, prominent, up
 332 to 10 cm in widest dimension, no distinct margin. The color of different
 333 basidiocarps varies from cream to grayish. Hyphal structure monomitic,
 334 hyphae clamped; subicular hyphae slightly thick-walled, subparallel, 1.9–4.2
 335 μm diam ($n = 90/9$), subhymenial hyphae thin- to slightly thick-walled,
 336 subparallel, 1.8–4 μm diam ($n = 90/9$). Cystidia frequent, projecting, hyaline,
 337 acuminate, thick-walled along the proximal half, thinning to thin-walled closer
 338 to the apex (22) $34\text{--}62$ (87) \times (2.3) $3\text{--}5.5$ (7) μm ($n = 180/9$); rarely with one
 339 adventitious septum. The tips of cystidia are sometimes pin-shaped. Basidia
 340 broadly suburniform, slightly thick-walled at the base $10\text{--}18.5$ (23) \times $3.8\text{--}6.2$
 341 μm ($n = 92/9$). Most basidia have four sterigmata, however, rare one-sterigmate
 342 basidia also present in some specimens; in this case, the single sterigma is quite
 343 long, up to 11 μm . Basidiospores smooth, thick-walled, ellipsoid to subglobose,
 344 (4.1) $4.6\text{--}6$ (6.9) \times (3) $3.8\text{--}5.1$ (5.4) μm ($n = 272/9$), $L = 5.19$, $W = 4.35$, $Q =$
 345 1.20, apiculus prominent.

346 *Ecology and distribution:* *Xylodon subtilissimus* is a rare species occurring on
 347 well-decayed conifer wood. All studied specimens came from boreal and
 348 temperate Europe but one environmental sequence (EU689272) derives from
 349 soil sampled in Quebec, Canada.

350 *Other specimens examined:* GERMANY. BAVARIA: Bayerisch Eisenstein,
 351 Großer Arbersee und Arberseewand Nature Reserve, inside a rotten trunk of
 352 *Picea*, 4 Sep 1990, *H. Grosse-Brauckmann 4731* (GB-0103552). NORWAY.
 353 NORD-TRØNDELAGE: Stjørdal, 12 km south of Stjørdal near Nyvollskjølen

354 on the south side of the river Nævra, 15 Sep 1983, *T. Hallingbäck 1983.09.15*
355 (GB-0103550); SØR-TRØNDELAGE: Orkdal municipality, Songli, Bjørndalen,
356 on *Pinus* wood, 27 Aug 1982, *K. Hjortstam 12847* (GB-0103551). POLAND.
357 LESSER POLAND PROVINCE: Zakopane, Tatra National Park, on a stem
358 and stump of *Picea*, 17 Sep 1973, *K.-H. Larsson & N. Hallenberg 2924* (GB-
359 0103553); 2928 (GB-0103554); 2932 (GB-0103555). SWEDEN.
360 VÄSTERGÖTLAND: Jonstorpsmossen Nature Reserve, Hunneberg, inside a
361 strongly decayed stump of *Picea abies*, 7 Oct 1997, *B. Lindahl 1997-10-07*
362 (GB-0103546).
363 *Notes: Xylodon subtilissimus* has the most insignificant basidiocarps among all
364 known *Xylodon* species so that it nearly disappears after drying. We selected
365 Spirin 12228 as the holotype since it is the only specimen we managed to
366 sequence, while Hjortstam 12847 has the most prominent basidiocarp among
367 all *X. subtilissimus* cited here.
368 ***Peniophora grisea*** Rick ex Rick (in Rambo (Ed.) *Iheringia Sér. Bot.* 4: 110.
369 1959) MycoBank MB 335786
370 *Typification:* BRAZIL. RIO GRANDE DO SUL: São Leopoldo, 1931, J. Rick
371 16780 (lectotype PACA, FR 16780) (selected here, MBT 10006687).
372 *Notes:* Rick described *Kneiffia grisea* Rick from Brazil without citing any
373 specimens (Rick 1934). *K. grisea* Rick turned out to be illegitimate as a later
374 homonym of *Kneiffia grisea* Berk. & M.A. Curtis. A new name, *Peniophora*
375 *grisea* Rick ex Rick (in Rambo (Ed.) *Iheringia Sér. Bot.* 4: 110. 1959), was

376 published posthumously with a reference to *K. grisea* Rick. Thus, Rick's
377 species has been mechanically validated.

378 Three specimens from Rick's herbarium were cited in the description of
379 *P. grisea*: FR 16780, FR16847, and FR16874. Baltazar et al. (2016) have
380 reported that FR 16780 is sterile and unidentifiable and FR16847 belongs to
381 *Subulicystidium perlongisporum* Boidin & Gilles. FR16874 was identified as a
382 member of the *L. cymosum* complex in both Baltazar et al. (2016) and
383 Hjortstam and Ryvarden (1982). We agree with this identification and, more
384 precisely, we find FR16874 pertaining to the newly proposed *X. acuminatus*.

385 In an attempt to typify *K. grisea*, Baltazar et al. (2016) accepted FR
386 16780—the only extant specimen with a date concordant with the publication
387 of this taxon—as its holotype. At the same time, they selected FR 16874
388 (identified as *L. cymosum*) as its epitype; this selection made *P. grisea* a
389 younger synonym of *L. cymosum*. In our opinion, this typification is not
390 correct. If no specimens were mentioned in the protologue, which is the case
391 for *K. grisea*, it is not definite that there were no elements additional to the
392 original material than extant FR 16780. We refer to the code (Ex. 2 Note 1 Art.
393 9.1), which exemplifies such a case. Therefore, FR 16780 is not the holotype.
394 If made before 1 January 2001, such typification would have been considered a
395 correctable error: FR 16780 would have become the lectotype automatically.
396 However, after that date, the code plainly requires the use of the word
397 "lectotypus" or its equivalent term for lectotypification (Art. 9.21). It means
398 that Baltazar et al. (2016) were not able to cite any types referable to *K. grisea*,

399 which is a requirement for an effective epitypification (Art. 9.7). Therefore, *K.*
400 *grisea* has remained formally untypified to date.

401 In accordance with the simplest way to avoid the use of a problematic
402 name, we select FR 16780 as the lectotype of *P. grisea* but refrain from
403 formalizing the epitypification of Baltazar et al. (2016). Considering that the
404 identity of *P. grisea* is unclear even after the lectotypification and that the
405 protologue does not agree with the *L. cymosum* complex, we do not find that
406 name applicable to Neotropical relatives of *L. cymosum*.

407 **DISCUSSION**

408 The relative scarcity of easily recognizable morphological traits in fungi led to
409 highly permissive generic descriptions based on arbitrarily selected sets of
410 characters in the pivotal 18th and 19th century taxonomical works. With the
411 advent of modern microscopy and molecular techniques, many old large genera
412 subsequently turned out to be a plethora of unrelated phylogenetic clades.
413 Inconveniently, molecular data still create alternative scenarios of how to
414 delimit genera, as morphology doesn't clearly favor one solution.
415 Morphological traits may evolve rapidly: closely related species can develop
416 different basidiocarp types, etc. Vellinga et. al. (2015) addressed most of the
417 phylogenetic pitfalls of establishing new fungal genera by stressing the
418 monophyly requirement for introduced genera as well as for the group from
419 which it is separated and the group to which it is added. They also encourage
420 taxonomists to consider different possible options of delimiting genera to better

421 integrate all available supporting information and to avoid creating a
422 taxonomic turmoil just for the sake of establishing more genera.

423 In this study, we showed that the *X. cymosus* complex is resolved at the
424 deepest split of the *Xylodon* clade. This phylogenetic position, reinforced by a
425 unique set of micromorphological characters, could have been used as the basis
426 for erecting a new genus without taxonomic consequences for *Xylodon*.
427 However, we deem this option to be unfavorable for the following reasons. The
428 backbone of the *Xylodon* phylogeny, including the placement of the *X. cymosus*
429 complex, is not well supported (Fig. 1). Adding more DNA loci and taxa to the
430 analyses might resolve it in some other place inside of the *Xylodon* clade. If it
431 happens with the *X. cymosus* clade defined as a genus of its own, *Xylodon*
432 would become paraphyletic. In order to restore its monophyly, one of the two
433 consequences will occur: the added "*cymosus*" genus will be synonymized with
434 the older *Xylodon* or vice versa all newly emerged monophyletic *Xylodon*
435 clades (aside from the clade with the generic type *X. quercinus* (Pers.) Gray)
436 will be raised to the genus level. To avoid such taxonomic turbulence, we
437 choose to add this group to *Xylodon* and thus further expand its generic
438 concept.

439 The discussion on the generic placement of the *X. cymosus* complex
440 touches on a bigger issue regarding the generic concept of *Xylodon*. In our
441 opinion, its two closest relatives, genera *Lyomyces* and *Fasciodontia* as
442 currently circumscribed, can hardly be morphologically delineated from
443 species-rich and morphologically versatile *Xylodon* (which has nomenclatural

444 priority). As a result, the recognition of *Lyomyces* and *Fasciodontia* as separate
445 genera is based solely on their monophyly in phylogenetic analyses. The
446 *Lyomyces* situation is even more precarious as the recent attempt to show its
447 monophyly (Wang et al. 2021) has apparent methodological flaws discussed by
448 Viner et al. (2021).

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551 **LEGENDS and FOOTNOTES**

552 **Figure 1.** Phylogenetic relationships of *Xylodon* and *Lyomyces* inferred from
553 the 5.8S+28S+12S concatenated dataset using BI analysis. Bayesian posterior
554 probabilities followed by ML bootstrap values are shown at nodes; branch
555 lengths reflect estimated number of changes per site.

556 **Figure 2.** Phylogenetic relationships of *Xylodon* and *Lyomyces* inferred from
557 28S sequences using BI analysis. Bayesian posterior probabilities followed by
558 ML bootstrap values are shown at nodes; branch lengths reflect estimated
559 number of changes per site.

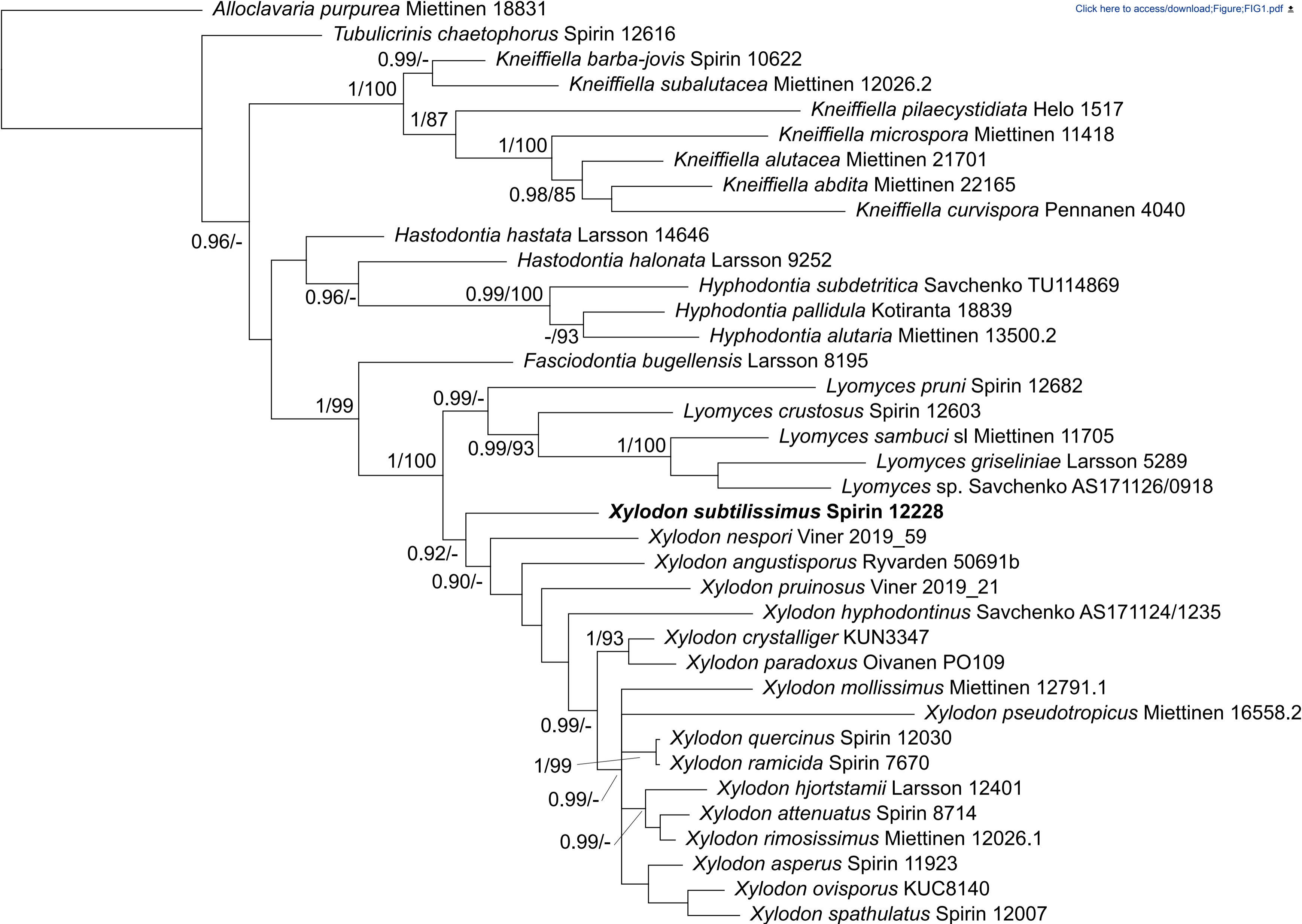
560 **Figure 3.** Phylogenetic relationships of the *Xylodon cymosus* species complex
561 inferred from ITS sequences using BI analysis. Bayesian posterior probabilities
562 followed by ML bootstrap values are shown at nodes; branch lengths reflect
563 estimated number of changes per site.

564 **Figure 4.** *Xylodon acuminatus* (holotype): Bar = 20 μm .

565 **Figure 5.** *Xylodon cymosus* (holotype): Bar = 20 μm .

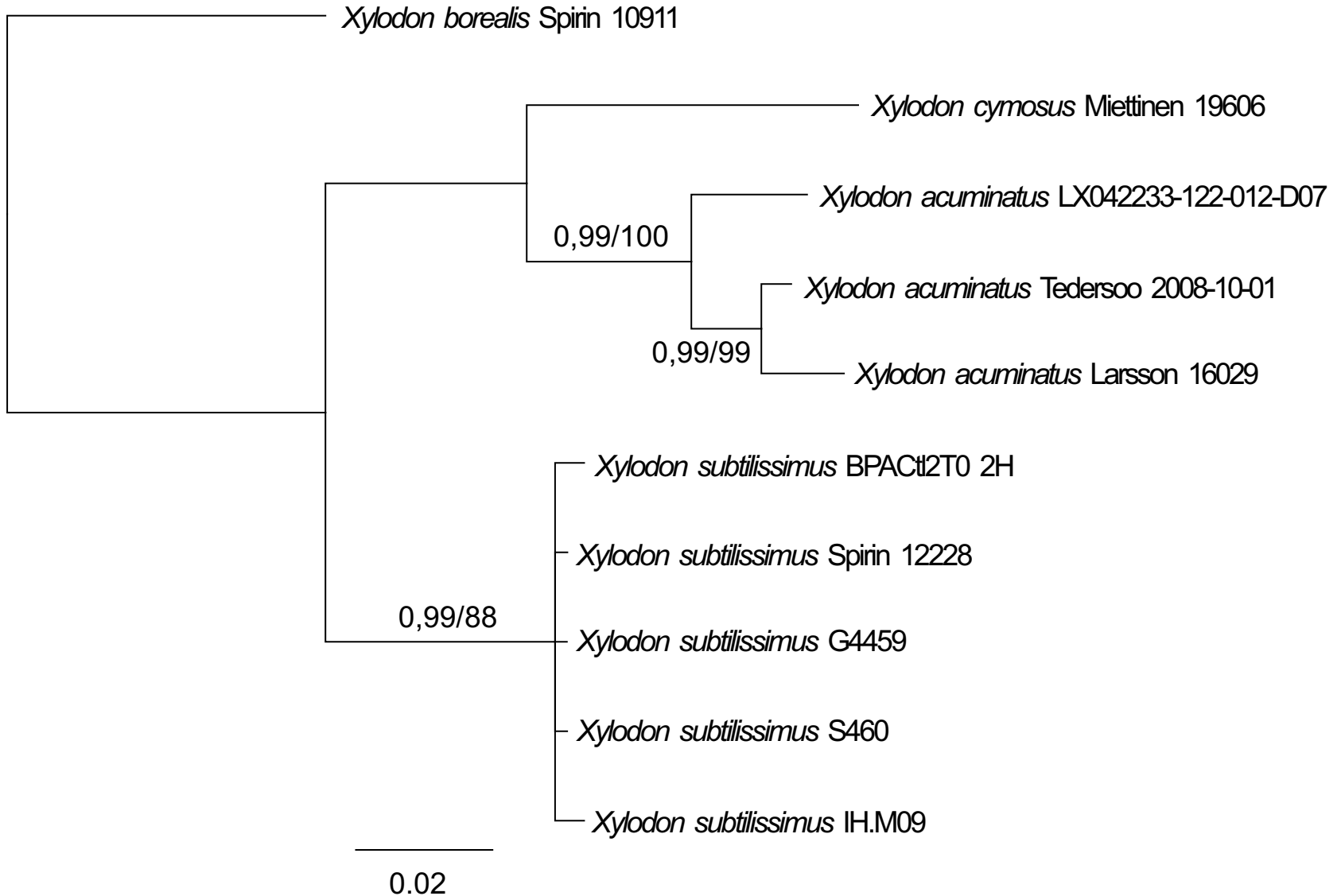
566 **Figure 6.** *Xylodon subtilissimus* (holotype): Bar = 20 μm .

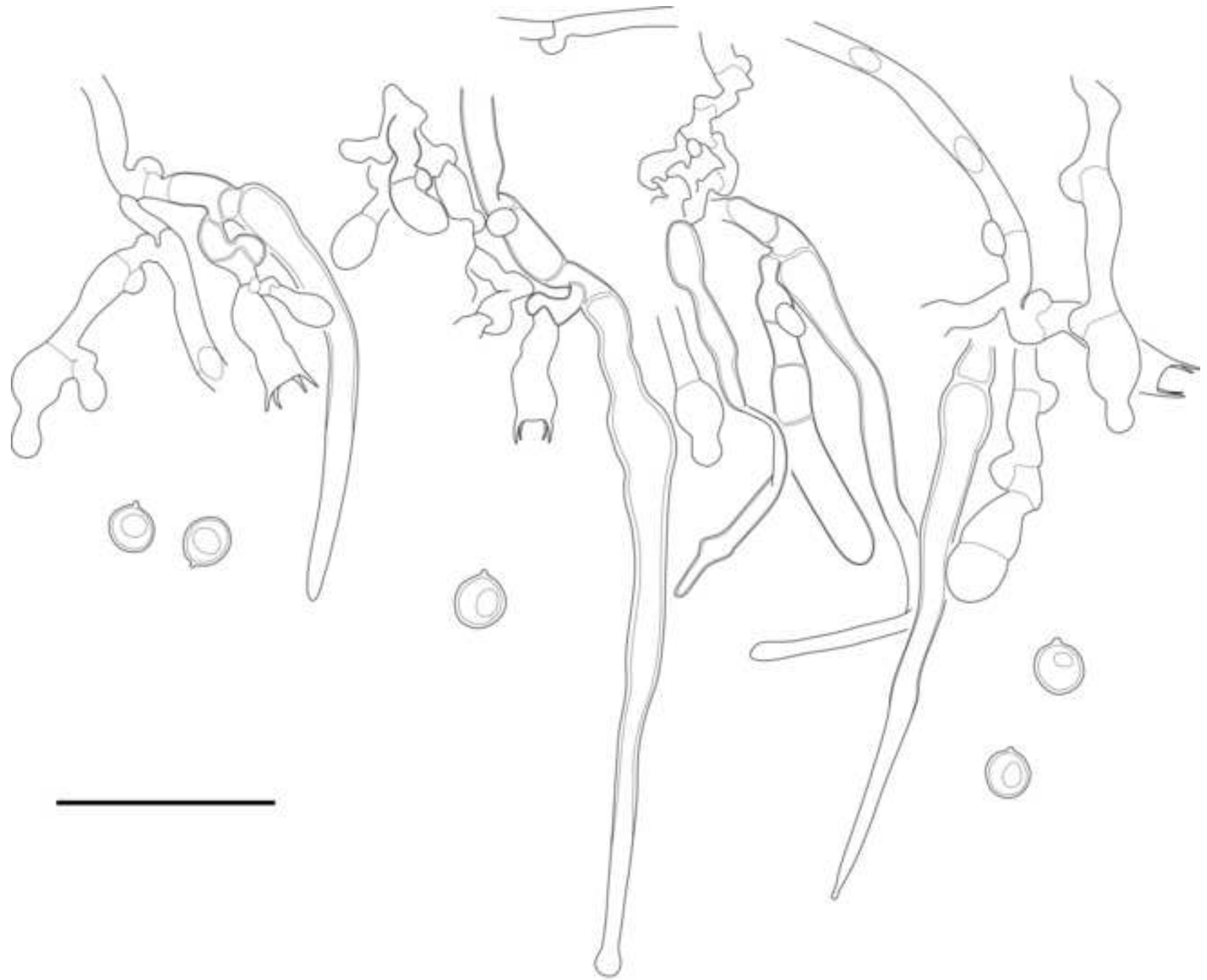
ⁱ Address for correspondence: Ilya Viner, ilya.viner@helsinki.fi

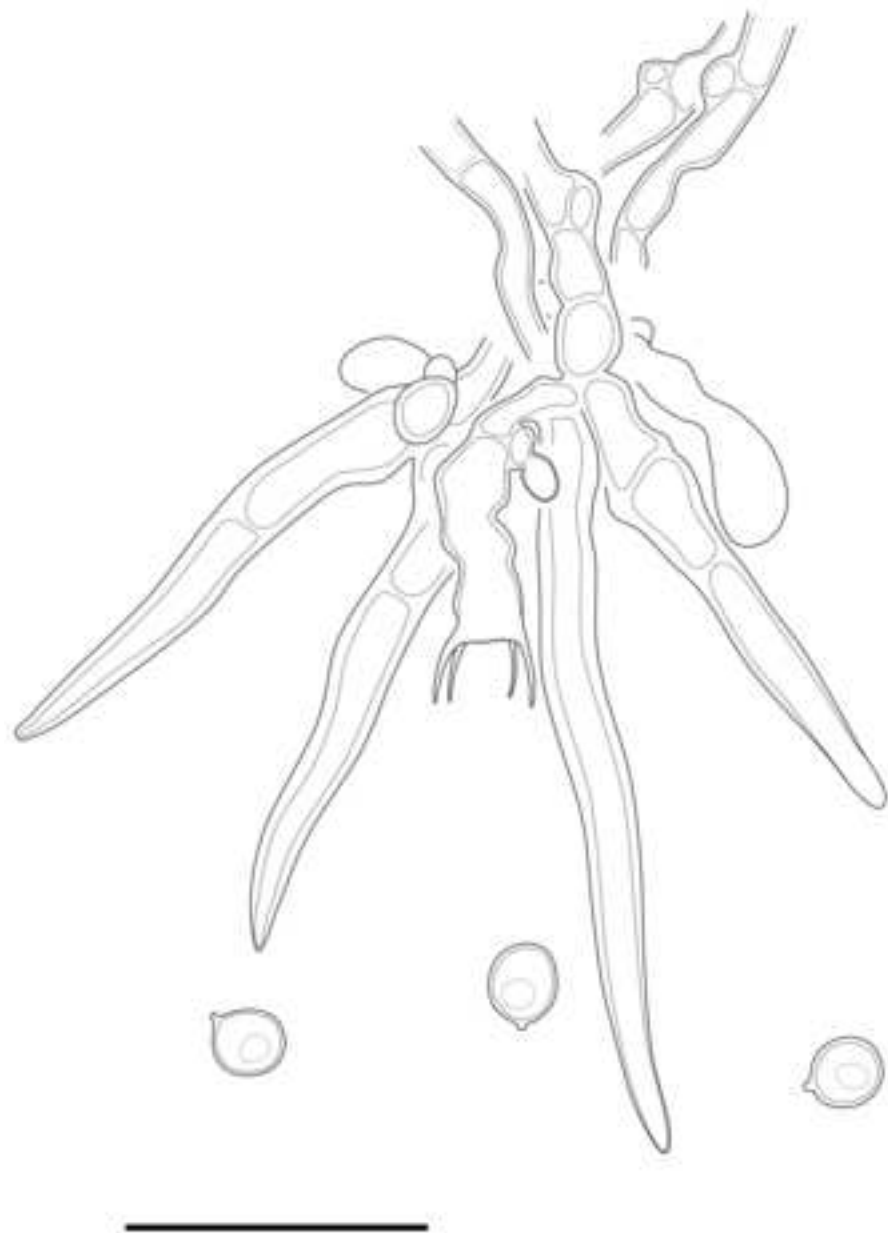


0.03









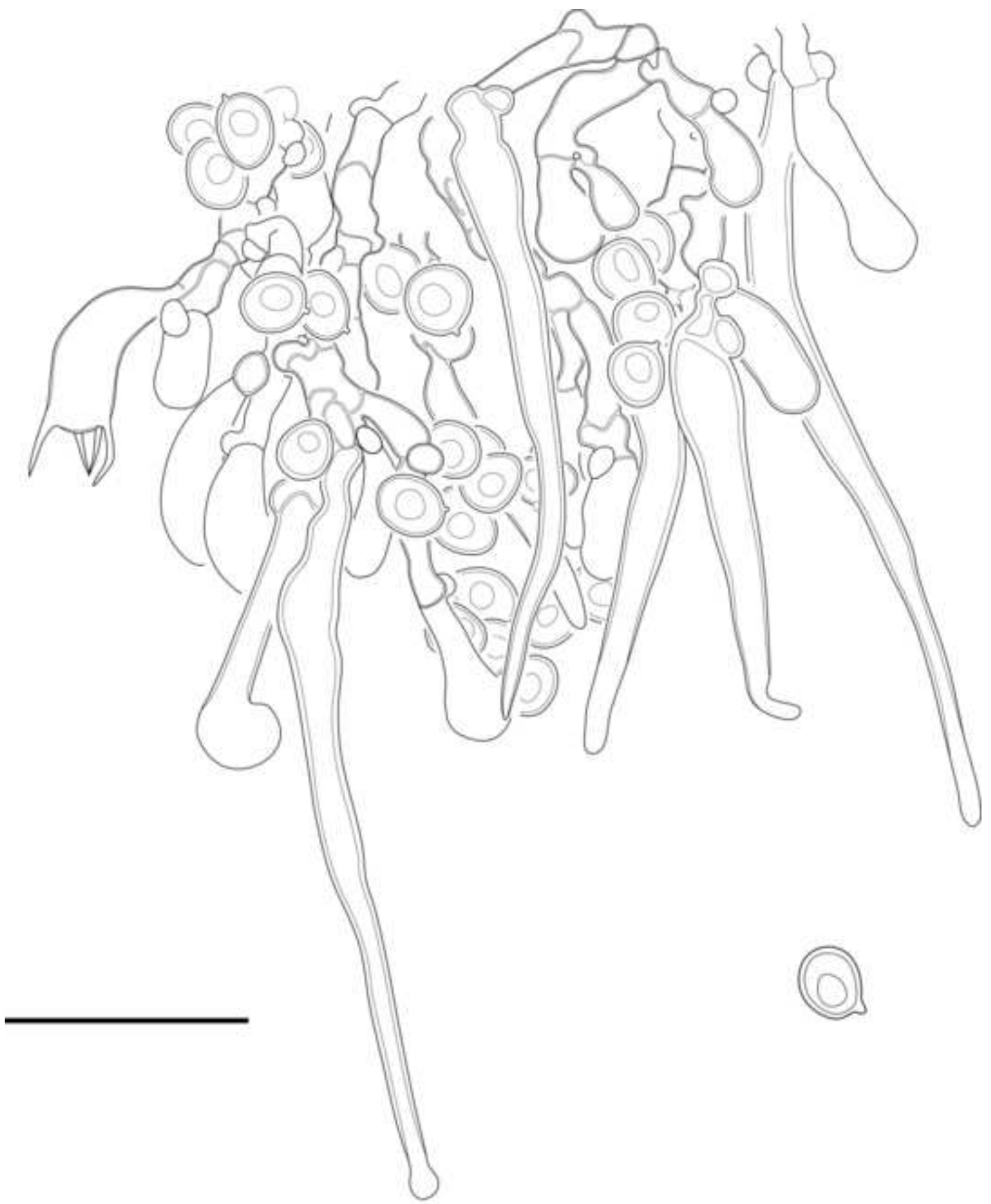


Table 1. Primers used in this study.

Primer name	Sequence	Target DNA locus	Binding site	Direction	Reference
ITS5	GGAAGTAAAAGTCGTAAC AAGG	ITS, ITS1	18S	fwd	White et al. 1990
ITS2	GCTGCGTTCTTCATCGATG C	ITS1	5.8S	rev	White et al. 1990
58A1F	GCATCGATGAAGAACGC	ITS2	5.8S	fwd	Martin and Rygiewicz 2005
ITS2.2r Xyl	TTATCACACCGCATATATG C	ITS2	ITS2	rev	Viner et al. 2021
ITS2.2f Xyl	CTTCYCTTGAATGYATTA	ITS2	ITS2	fwd	Viner et al. 2021
ALR0.2	GATATGCTTAAGTTCAGC GGG	ITS, ITS2	28S	rev	Riebesehl and Langer 2017
LR22	CCTCACGGTACTTGTTTCGC T	ITS	28S	rev	Vilgalys lab, Duke University (https://sites.duke.edu/vilgalyslab/files/2017/08/rDNA-primers-for-fungi.pdf)
JS1	CGCTGAACTTAAGCATAT	28S	28S	fwd	Landvik 1996
LR7	TACTACCACCAAGATCT	28S	28S	rev	Hopple and Vilgalys 1994
MS1	CAGCAGTCAAGAATATTA GTCAATG	12S	12S	fwd	White et al. 1990
MS2	GCGGATTATCGAATTTAA TAAC	12S	12S	rev	White et al. 1990

- 1 **Table 2.** GenBank and UNITE accession numbers for DNA sequences used in
- 2 this study. Sequences downloaded from the Fungal Genomics Resource
- 3 indicated as JGI. New sequences are in bold.

Species	Specimen	ITS	28S	12S
<i>Alloclavaria purpurea</i>	Miettinen 18831	ON188807	ON188807	ON228494
<i>Fasciodontia bugellensis</i>	Larsson 13832	OK273855	OK273855	ON228480
<i>Fasciodontia yunnanensis</i>	Zhao 6280		MZ146327	
<i>Hastodontia halonata</i>	Finn Oldervik	ON188810	ON188810	ON228482
<i>Hastodontia hastata</i>	Larsson 14646	MH638232	MH638232	ON228492
<i>Hyphodontia alutaria</i>	Miettinen 13500.2	ON188811	ON188811	ON228488
<i>Hyphodontia pallidula</i>	Kotiranta 18839	OP620785	OP620785	OP620779
<i>Hyphodontia subdetricata</i>	Savchenko TU114869	OP620786	OP620786	OP620780
<i>Kneiffiella abdita</i>	Miettinen 22165	ON188809	ON188809	ON228493
<i>Kneiffiella alutacea</i>	Miettinen 21701	ON188808	ON188808	ON228491
<i>Kneiffiella barba-jovis</i>	Spirin 10622	ON188812	ON188812	ON228489
<i>Kneiffiella curvispora</i>	Pennanen 4040	OP620787	OP620787	OP620781
<i>Kneiffiella microspora</i>	Miettinen 11418	OP620788	OP620788	OP620782
<i>Kneiffiella pilaecystidiata</i>	Helo 1517	OP620789	OP620789	OP620783
<i>Kneiffiella subalutacea</i>	Miettinen 12026.2	OP620790	OP620790	OP620784
<i>Lyomyces bambusinus</i>	Zhao 4831		MW264919	
<i>Lyomyces crustosus</i>	Spirin 12630	OK273832	OK273832	ON228478
<i>Lyomyces densiusculus</i>	Ryvarden 44818	OK273853	OK273853	
<i>Lyomyces elaeidicola</i>	He 6360		MW507035	
<i>Lyomyces elaeidicola</i>	He 6378		MW507036	
<i>Lyomyces fissuratus</i>	Zhao 4299		MW713731	
<i>Lyomyces fissuratus</i>	Zhao 4352		MW713732	
<i>Lyomyces fissuratus</i>	Zhao 4394		MW713733	
<i>Lyomyces fissuratus</i>	Zhao 4577		MW713734	
<i>Lyomyces fissuratus</i>	Zhao 9784		MW713735	
<i>Lyomyces fumosus</i>	Zhao 8188		MW713736	
<i>Lyomyces fumosus</i>	Zhao 17855		MW713737	
<i>Lyomyces griseliniae</i>	Larsson 12971	OK273851	OK273851	ON228485
<i>Lyomyces incrustatus</i>	Viner2019_203	ON197553	ON197553	
<i>Lyomyces macrosporus</i>	He 6179		MW507034	
<i>Lyomyces macrosporus</i>	Zhao 4516		MW264920	
<i>Lyomyces microfasciculatus</i>	He 2651		MW507027	
<i>Lyomyces microfasciculatus</i>	Zhao 5109		MW264921	
<i>Lyomyces niveus</i>	Zhao 6431		MZ262526	
<i>Lyomyces niveus</i>	Zhao 6442		MZ262527	
<i>Lyomyces niveus</i>	Zhao 6474		MZ262528	
<i>Lyomyces niveus</i>	Zhao 6483		MZ262529	
<i>Lyomyces niveus</i>	Zhao 6565		MZ262531	
<i>Lyomyces ochraceoalbus</i>	Zhao 10474		MZ262525	

<i>Lyomyces ochraceoalbus</i>	Zhao 4385		MZ262521	
<i>Lyomyces ochraceoalbus</i>	Zhao 4725		MZ262522	
<i>Lyomyces ochraceoalbus</i>	Zhao 6224		MZ262523	
<i>Lyomyces orientalis</i>	He 3616		MW507030	
<i>Lyomyces orientalis</i>	He 3686		MW507031	
<i>Lyomyces pruni</i>	Spirin 12682	OK273833	OK273833	ON228483
<i>Lyomyces sambuci</i>	He 6108		MW507033	
<i>Lyomyces sambuci</i>	He 6576		MW507037	
<i>Lyomyces sambuci</i>	Miettinen 11705	OK273852	OK273852	ON228487
<i>Lyomyces vietnamensis</i>	He 3260		MW507028	
<i>Lyomyces wuliangshanensis</i>	He 3498		MW507029	
<i>Lyomyces wuliangshanensis</i>	He 4765		MW507032	
<i>Lyomyces</i> sp.	Savchenko AS171126/0918	ON188813	ON188813	ON228486
<i>Tubulicrinis chaetophorus</i>	Spirin 12616	ON188814	ON188814	ON228495
<i>Xylodon acuminatus</i>	Larsson 16029	ON197552	ON197552	
<i>Xylodon acuminatus</i>	LX042233-122-012-D07	GU054154		
<i>Xylodon acuminatus</i>	Tedersoo 2008-10-01	UDB014084		
<i>Xylodon angustisporus</i>	Ryvarden 50691b	OK273831	OK273831	ON228490
<i>Xylodon apacheriensis</i>	Miettinen 16686	OK273835	OK273835	
<i>Xylodon asperus</i>	Nilsson 2004b	DQ873606	DQ873607	
<i>Xylodon asperus</i>	Spirin 11923	OK273838	OK273838	ON228467
<i>Xylodon attenuatus</i>	Spirin 8714	OK273839	OK273839	ON228472
<i>Xylodon bambusinus</i>	Zhao 11211	MW394658	MW394651	
<i>Xylodon bambusinus</i>	Zhao 11215	MW394661	MW394652	
<i>Xylodon bambusinus</i>	Zhao 11219	MW394659	MW394653	
<i>Xylodon bambusinus</i>	Zhao 11224	MW394662	MW394654	
<i>Xylodon bambusinus</i>	Zhao 11310	MW394660	MW394655	
<i>Xylodon borealis</i>	Spirin 10911	OK273846	OK273846	
<i>Xylodon crystalliger</i>	KUN3347	OK273842	OK273842	ON228479
<i>Xylodon cymosus</i>	Miettinen 19606	ON197554		
<i>Xylodon cystidiatus</i>	Savchenko AS171128/1625B	OK273850	OK273850	
<i>Xylodon detriticus</i>	Miettinen 22106	OK273844	OK273844	
<i>Xylodon dissiliens</i>	Ryvarden 44817	OK273856	OK273856	
<i>Xylodon flaviporus</i>	MA Fungi 79440	MH260071	MH260066	
<i>Xylodon flocculosus</i>	Zhao 18342		MW980779	
<i>Xylodon flocculosus</i>	Zhao 18379		MW980780	
<i>Xylodon flocculosus</i>	Zhao 18394		MW980781	
<i>Xylodon gossypinus</i>	Zhao 4465		MZ663812	
<i>Xylodon gossypinus</i>	Zhao 8375		MZ663813	
<i>Xylodon hjortstamii</i>	Gorjón 3187	ON188816	ON188816	ON228473
<i>Xylodon hyphodontinus</i>	Savchenko AS171124/1235	OK273848	OK273848	ON228476
<i>Xylodon laceratus</i>	Zhao 9841		OL619265	
<i>Xylodon laceratus</i>	Zhao 9892		OL619266	
<i>Xylodon macrosporus</i>	Zhao 10226		MZ663817	

<i>Xylodon macrosporus</i>	Zhao 2379		MZ663814	
<i>Xylodon macrosporus</i>	Zhao 2488		MZ663815	
<i>Xylodon macrosporus</i>	Zhao 3238		MZ663816	
<i>Xylodon mollissimus</i>	Miettinen 12791.1	ON188815	ON188815	ON228481
<i>Xylodon montanus</i>	Zhao 8118		OL619267	
<i>Xylodon montanus</i>	Zhao 8179		OL619268	
<i>Xylodon nespori</i>	Nordon 030915	DQ873622	DQ873622	
<i>Xylodon nespori</i>	Viner 2019_59	OK273834	OK273834	ON228477
<i>Xylodon niemelaei</i>	Savchenko TU114922	OK273836	OK273836	
<i>Xylodon niemelaei</i>	GC 1508-146		KX857816	
<i>Xylodon nongravis</i>	Spirin 5615	OK273849	OK273849	
<i>Xylodon nothofagi</i>	ICMP 13839	AF145582	MH260064	
<i>Xylodon ovisporus</i>	ICMP 13835	AF145586	MH260063	
<i>Xylodon ovisporus</i>	KUC8140	JGI	JGI	JGI
<i>Xylodon paradoxus</i>	Oivanen PO109	OK273843	OK273843	ON228474
<i>Xylodon pruinus</i>	Viner 2019_21	OK273845	OK273845	ON228475
<i>Xylodon pruinus</i>	Nilsson 990902	DQ677507	DQ677507	
<i>Xylodon pseudolanatus</i>	HHB-10703-Sp	OK273847	OK273847	
<i>Xylodon pseudotropicus</i>	Miettinen 16558.2	OK273854	OK273854	ON228466
<i>Xylodon quercinus</i>	Spirin 12030	OK273841	OK273841	ON228469
<i>Xylodon raduloides</i>	Dai 12631		KT203328	
<i>Xylodon ramicida</i>	Spirin 7670	ON188817	ON188817	ON228468
<i>Xylodon rimosissimus</i>	Miettinen 12026.1	OK273840	OK273840	ON228470
<i>Xylodon sinensis</i>	Zhao 11120		MZ663819	
<i>Xylodon sinensis</i>	Zhao 9197		MZ663818	
<i>Xylodon</i> sp.	Berglund 1117	DQ873633	DQ873634	
<i>Xylodon</i> sp.	Larsson 12386	DQ873612	DQ873612	
<i>Xylodon</i> sp.	Zhao 210		MN654918	
<i>Xylodon</i> sp.	Zhao 214		MN654919	
<i>Xylodon</i> sp.	Zhao 215		MN654920	
<i>Xylodon spathulatus</i>	Spirin 12007	OK273837	OK273837	ON228471
<i>Xylodon spathulatus</i>	Wu 1307-42		KX857810	
<i>Xylodon subtilissimus</i>	BPActI2T0_2H	EU689272		
<i>Xylodon subtilissimus</i>	G4459		UDB0239643	
<i>Xylodon subtilissimus</i>	IH.M09		UDB062035	
<i>Xylodon subtilissimus</i>	S460		UDB0111079	
<i>Xylodon subtilissimus</i>	Spirin 12228	ON188818	ON188818	ON228484
<i>Xylodon tropicus</i>	Zhao 3351		OL619269	
<i>Xylodon tropicus</i>	Zhao 3395		OL619270	
<i>Xylodon tropicus</i>	Zhao 3397		OL619271	
<i>Xylodon verecundus</i>	Larsson 12261		DQ873643	
<i>Xylodon xinpingensis</i>	Zhao 9125		MW394649	
<i>Xylodon xinpingensis</i>	Zhao 9174		MW394650	





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