Capronia suijae (Herpotrichiellaceae, Eurotiomycetes), a new fungus on Xanthoria parietina from Belarus, with a key to the lichenicolous species growing on Xanthoria s. str.

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Abstract: The new lichenicolous fungus *Capronia suijae* growing on the thallus of corticolous *Xanthoria parietina* is described from Belarus and compared with similar species. In addition to its host selection, the species is characterized by comparatively small ascomata, $40-80 \,\mu\text{m}$ diam., and (0-1-)3-septate ascospores, $9.5-11.5 \times 4.0-5.0 \,\mu\text{m}$. A key to the lichenicolous fungi growing on *Xanthoria* s. str. is provided.

Key words: biodiversity, Europe, new records, new species

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Introduction

Xanthoria is a genus of lichenized fungi in the family Teloschistaceae, mostly distributed in the Northern Hemisphere. In modern classification, the genus comprises six species, namely X. aureola, X. calcicola, X. mediterranea, X. parietina, X. resendei and X. stiligera (Arup et al. 2013). Specific affiliations of recently described taxa (e.g. Kondratyuk et al. 2013) should be studied further. The generic type, X. parietina, is the most widely distributed species, being very common in the Northern Hemisphere, but also known in the Southern Hemisphere (Arup et al. 2013). To date, 41 species of lichenicolous fungi have been reported from X. parietina (Etayo 1998; Etayo & Diederich 1998; Kukwa 2004; Brackel & Kocourková 2006; Brackel 2009, 2010, 2011; Fleischhacker 2011; Lawrey & Diederich 2015; Khodosovtsev & Darmostuk 2016). Seven of these are facultatively lichenicolous, namely Athelia arachnoidea, Catillaria nigroclavata, Cladosporium macrocarpum, Cosmospora flammea,

Dinemasporium strigosum, Epicoccum nigrum and Periconia digitata (Yurchenko & Golubkov 2003; Duan et al. 2007; Hertel et al. 2007; Etayo & Berger 2009; Fleischhacker 2011).

During an examination of lichens collected by students the first author found a lichenicolous pyrenocarpous fungus with brown 3-septate ascospores and setose ascomata growing on the thallus of corticolous *Xanthoria parietina*. The fungus appears to represent a new species of *Capronia* Sacc. (*Chaetothyriales*) and is described below. A key to the lichenicolous fungi occurring on *Xanthoria* s. str. is also presented.

Material and Methods

Morphology and anatomy were examined using Nikon SMZ 745 and Nikon Eclipse 80i microscopes. The anatomy was studied on material mounted in water, 10% KOH (K) and for ascus structure Lugol's iodine solution without (I) or with KOH pretreatment (K/I). Measurement of ascospores and other structures was made on material mounted in water. Ascospore measurements are given as $(\min-)(\overline{x} - SD) - (\overline{x} + SD)(-\max)$ where min. and max. are extreme values and \overline{x} the arithmetic means and SD the corresponding standard deviation. Length/width ratios of ascospores are indicated as I/w followed by the number of measurements (*n*). All photographs were taken with a Nikon Eclipse 80i microscope. Material examined is deposited in GSU herbarium.

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The New Species

Capronia suijae Tsurykau & Etayo sp. nov.

MycoBank No.: MB 815580

Similar to *Capronia spinifera*, which differs mainly in its host selection (hymenium of basidiomycetes vs. lichen *Xanthoria*), and in having larger ascomata, 70–112 μ m wide, and longer ascospores, (10·0–)12·0–15·5 × 3·5–4·5 μ m.

Type: Belarus, Gomel region, Leltchitsy District, Ostrozhanka Village, 51°59'30"N, 28°33'32"E, on corticolous *Xanthoria parietina*, 8 November 2014, *V. Selenya* (GSU—holotype); accompanied by *Muellerella lichenicola*.

(Fig. 1)

Mycelium immersed in the host thallus, hyphae flexuous, septate, brown, smooth, $1.5-4.0 \,\mu\text{m}$ wide.

Ascomata perithecioid, ostiolate, scattered, initially partly immersed in the host thallus, later almost superficial, globose to subglobose, black, 40-80 µm wide (excluding setae). Setae arising from the upper part, dark brown, non-septate, unbranched, straight or curved, with an obtuse apex, thick-walled, smooth, $20-38 \times 2-3 \,\mu\text{m}$ at half height, sometimes gradually tapering towards the apex. Ascomatal wall composed of brown to olivaceous brown, K-, thick-walled angular pseudoparenchymatous cells, $3.5-10.0 \times 3.0-$ 5.5 µm. Hamathecium gelatinized; centrum I-, pseudoparaphyses absent. Periphyses clavate, hyaline, aseptate, and sometimes difficult to observe, $4.5-7.5 \times 2 \,\mu\text{m}$. Asci clavate, 8-spored, bitunicate, initially with a thick endotunica, later entirely thin-walled, I-, $28.5-38.0 \times 6.0-11.5 \,\mu\text{m}$, ascospores overlapping within asci. Ascospores ellipsoid to fusiform, with obtuse ends, smooth, first hyaline then pale brown, (0-1-)3-septate, constricted at the septa, no longitudinal septa observed, some with a single oil drop in each cell, $(9.5-)9.9-11.2(-11.5) \times (4.0-)$ $4 \cdot 2 - 4 \cdot 6(-5 \cdot 0) \ \mu m, \ l/w = (2 \cdot 1 -)2 \cdot 2 - 2 \cdot 6(-2 \cdot 8),$ n = 32.

Etymology. The new species is named after Dr Ave Suija (Tartu), an eminent Estonian lichenologist, in recognition of her

important contribution to the knowledge of lichenicolous fungi.

Distribution and host. So far the species is known only from the type locality, growing on darkened lobes of healthy-looking Xanthoria parietina. As the darkened parts of the thallus were also infected with Muellerella lichenicola, we cannot confirm whether C. suijae is a pathogenic species. Muellerella lichenicola is a new species to Belarus.

Notes. The following non-lichenicolous Capronia species with 3-septate ascospores and 8-spored asci have been described: C. commonsii (Ellis & Everh.) M. E. Barr, C. coronata Samuels, C. obesispora Réblová, C. parasitica (Ellis & Everh.) E. Müll. et al., C. pilosella (P. Carsten) E. Müll. et al., C. porothelia (Berk. & M. A. Curtis) M. E. Barr, C. proteae Marincowitz et al., C. setosa (M. E. Barr) E. Müll. et al. and C. spinifera (Ellis & Everh.) E. Müll. et al. All these species differ in having larger ascomata and different ascospore dimensions, as well as a different life habit (Ellis & Everhart 1890; Barr 1959, 1972, 1976; Bigelow & Barr 1963; Müller et al. 1987; Réblová 1997; Untereiner 1997; Marincowitz et al. 2008). The species mentioned above are compared Table 1. Comparable lichenicolous species of Capronia are C. andina Etayo growing on Placopsis and C. minutosetosa Halici et al. growing on Chromatochlamys muscorum. The former differs from C. suijae in having (0-)3-septate setae and larger $(13.0-19.0 \times 4.5-6.0 \,\mu\text{m})$ ascospores (Etayo 2003), and the latter in having some septate setae and 3-5-septate and larger ascospores, $(19-)22-25(-28) \times 6.5-7.0 \,\mu m$ (Halici et al. 2010). Knufia peltigerae (Fuckel) Réblová & Unter., formerly known as Capronia peltigerae (Fuckel) D. Hawksw. (see Untereiner et al. 2011; Réblová et al. 2013), grows on Peltigera, and has setose ascomata and similar 1-3-septate ascospores, but they are hyaline and larger, measuring $19-24 \times$ $6-8 \,\mu\text{m}$ (Hawksworth 1980).

Macroscopically, C. suijae could be confused with the setose coelomycete



FIG. 1. *Capronia suijae* (holotype). A & B, habitus; C, squashed ascoma; D, seta; E & F, ascospores at different stages of maturity. C–F: in water. Scales: A & B = 50 μ m; C = 20 μ m; D–F = 10 μ m. In colour online.

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Species	Host/ substrate	Ascoma diameter(µm)	Ascus size (µm)	Ascospore size (µm)	Ascospore l/w ratio
C. suijae	lichen Xanthoria parietina	40-80	28·5–38·0 × 6·0–11·5	$(9.5-)9.9-11.2(-11.5) \times (4.0-)$ 4.2-4.6(-5.0)	2.1-2.8
C. commonsii (Ellis & Everhart 1890)	pyrenomycete Creosphaeria sassafras	110–125	50–55 × 7–8	$12-14 \times 3.0-3.5$	4
C. coronata (Müller et al. 1987)	wood	95*	$47.5-55.5(-57.0) \times (7.0-)$ 7.6-9.6(-10.0)	$(10.0-)11.5-13.5(-15.5) \times (2.0-)$ 3.6-4.7(-5.0)	3.1-5.0
C. obesispora (Réblová 1997)	wood	120–150	92·5–103·0 × 34·5–38·0	(29·5–)32·5–39·0(–42·0) × 10·5–12·5	2.8-3.4
C. parasitica (Ellis & Everhart 1890)	pyrenomycete Diatrype stigma	110–130	40–50 × 8–10	10–12 × 3–4	3.0-3.3
C. pilosella (Barr 1972)	wood	90-200	$44.0-45.0 \times 10.0-15.5$	$11.0-15.5 \times 3.5-5.0(-6.0)$	2.6-3.1
C. porothelia (Barr 1976)	basidiomycetes (Stereum spp.)	104-190(-220)	$40-55(-60) \times 7-9$	10-14 × 3-4	3.3-3.5
C. proteae (Marincowitz et al. 2008)	twig of Protea nitida	90–130	39–52 × 6–7	$(7-)8-10(-11) \times 3-4$	2.3-2.8
C. setosa (Barr 1959)	leaves and stalks of Saxifraga oppositifolia	150–195	68–81 × 9–11	$18-21 \times 3.5-5.0$	4.2-5.1
C. spinifera (Bigelow & Barr 1963)	basidiomycetes (Corticia sp., Poria sp., Stereum sp.)	70–112	$27-44 \times 7.5-15.5$	(10.0–)12.0–15.5 × 3.5–4.5	2.9-3.4

TABLE 1. Comparison of Capronia suijae characters with those of similar Capronia species.

*calculated using the figure provided in Müller et al. (1987)

Pyrenochaeta xanthoriae, which grows mainly on the thallus and apothecia of Xanthoria parietina (Diederich 1990), but has also been reported from X. calcicola and weakened Physcia species adjacent to infected Xanthoria thalli (Brackel 2011). No Capronia species is known to have a Pyrenochaeta-type asexual stage (Müller *et al.* 1987; Untereiner 1997) and thus the two fungi are not expected to belong to the same holomorph. Furthermore, recent studies (Aveskamp *et al.* 2008; de Gruyter *et al.* 2009) revealed *Pyrenochaeta* as belonging to the *Pleosporales* (Dothideomycetes).

Key to the lichenicolous fungi occurring on Xanthoria s. str.

The report of Discothecium gemmiferum (Tayl.) Vouaux, a synonym of Endococcus rugulosus Nyl., growing on Xanthoria parietina (Vouaux 1913) seems to be erroneous, and therefore it can be assumed that the record most likely refers to Sphaerellothecium parietinarium (see also Sérusiaux et al. 1999; Kukwa & Czarnota 2006). The records of Zwackhiomyces sphinctrinoides (Zwackh) Grube & Hafellner on Xanthoria (e.g. Alstrup & Hawksworth 1990) prior to Grube & Hafellner (1990) probably do not belong to that species, but to Z. coepulorus. The material of Stignidium schaereri (A. Massal.) Trevis. reported by Kondratyuk & Galloway (1994) on X. parietina should be reassessed, as S. schaereri is considered to be confined to Solorina (Roux & Triebel 1994). All known records of Arthonia epiphyscia Nyl. on Xanthoria almost certainly refer to other species, most likely to A. molendoi, as A. epiphyscia seems to be confined to Physcia species (Diederich 2003; Grube 2007). We also hesitate to consider the report of Perigrapha superveniens (Nyl.) Hafellner from Xanthoria (Clauzade et al. 1989), as no reference was provided, and the species exclusively grows on species of Parmelia s. str. (Hafellner 1996). The current taxonomic status of *Phoma epiphyscia* Vouaux is unknown, and literature reports on X. *parietina* may belong to either Didymocyrtis epiphyscia s. lat. or to D. slaptoniensis (Ertz et al. 2015). In temperate regions, Licea parasitica (Zukal) G. W. Martin often appears on bark and co-occurring epiphytic bryophytes and lichens (Stephenson 2003), including Xanthoria (Zukal 1893). However, the species belongs to Mycetozoa and thus is not a fungus, and it is not really lichenicolous; we therefore do not include it in the key. Finally, Phyllactinia guttata (Wallr.) Lév. is a plant pathogen causing a powdery mildew on a broad range of phanerogams (Erper et al. 2012). Its cleistothecia often fall off and attach to new growing surfaces, including lichens; therefore, its settlement on X. parietina (Brackel 2010) is casual.

1	Spores produced in asci 2 Spores not produced in asci 18
2(1)	Ascomata apothecioid
3(2)	Ascomata rounded; ascospores 0–1-septate, hyaline
4(3)	Ascomata arthonioid, immarginate, single or in fusing groups; ascospores halonate

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5(4)	Ascomata $100-240 \mu\text{m}$ wide, not inducing galls; hypothecium medium ascospores $11-14 \times 5.0-6.5 \mu\text{m}$. Lit.: Grube (2007)	brown
	Ascomata 150–450 μm wide, forms distinct, raised galls on lichen hypothecium hyaline; ascospores 8–13 × 3–5 μm. Lit.: Kondratyuk (1996 	thallus;) Kondr.
$\langle (0) \rangle$		-
6(2)	Asci (4–)8-spored Asci more than 64-spored; perithecia black, 70–150 μ m diam.; ascospores (0–)1-septate, 4.5–7.0 × 2.0–3.5 μ m. Lit.: Triebel & Kainz (2004) Muellerella lichenicola (Sommerf.) D. H	brown,
7(6)	Ascospores septate, hyaline or brown	8 comatal nann & afellner
8(7)	Ascospores brown at maturity Ascospores colourless at maturity	9 12
9(8)	Ascospores transversely septate. Ascospores muriform, $20.5-27.0 \times 9-13 \mu m$, perithecia black, $90-220 \mu m$ Lit.: Khodosovtsev & Darmostuk (2016)	10 1 diam.
	Pleospora xanthoriae Khodos. & Dar	mostuk
10(9)	Ascospores 1-septate; ascomata without setae Ascospores (0–1–)3-septate, 9·5–11·5 × 4–5 μm; ascomata with setae, 40 wide Capronia suijae Tsurykau &	11 –80 μm & Etayo
11(10)	Perithecia 150–300 μm diam., inducing formation of galls; ascospores 1 5·5–7·0 μm, verruculose. Lit.: Ertz <i>et al.</i> (2015) Didymocyrtis slaptoniensis (D. Hawksw.) Hafellner	1–15 × & Ertz
	Perithecia 25–80 μ m diam., not gall inducing; ascospores 10.5–14.0 × 3.5– smooth. Lit.: Hawksworth (1994).	5·0 μm, ••••
	Sphaerellothecium parietinarium (Linds.) Hafellner &	V. John
12(8)	Ascospores transversely septate Ascospores muriform, with appendages at both ends, 22–36 × 9–15 μm; per orange to pink, 150–230 μm wide. Lit.: Ertz (2004) 	13 rithecia & Piroz.
13(12)	Ascospores 1-septate Ascospores 14–24-septate	14 17
14(13)	Perithecia orange or pink; interascal filaments soon disappearing unitunicate Perithecia dark-coloured; interascal filaments persistent; asci fissitunicate .	g; asci 15 16

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- 15(14) Perithecia immersed, bright orange; asci 8-spored; ascospores 17–24 × 4–5 μm. Lit.: Lowen & Diederich (1990)......Pronectria xanthoriae Lowen & Diederich Perithecia sessile, pink; asci 4(–8)-spored; ascospores 12–19 × 6–9 μm. Lit.: Sérusiaux et al. (1999) Nectriopsis indigens (Arnold) Diederich & Schroers
- 16(14) Perithecia 150–250 μm diam.; ascomatal wall brown with extracellular pigment; ascospores verrucose, (15–)16–20(–21)×5·5–8·5(–9·0) μm. Lit.:. Grube & Hafellner (1990)....Zwackhiomyces coepulonus (Norman) Grube & R. Sant. Perithecia 300–400 μm diam.; ascomatal wall green with intracellular pigment; ascospores smooth, (16–)22–25(–28)×(3–)5–6(–7) μm. Lit.: Weddell (1874), Zhurbenko & Triebel (2003) Cercidospora xanthoriae (Wedd.) R. Sant.

22(18)	Conidia arising within pycnidial conidiomata	23
	Conidia not arising within pycnidial conidiomata	32

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24(23)	Conidia brown or pale brown	. 25
25(24)	Conidia aseptate, 3–5 μm diam Conidia 1-septate, 8–12 × 2–3 μm. Lit.: Kondratyuk (1996) Lichenodiplis poeltii S. Y. Kondr. & D. Hav	26 vksw.
26(25)	Conidiomata 30–50 μm diam.; conidiogenous cells 4–5×3·0–3·5 μm. Lit.: Co Hawksworth (2004) Lichenoconium erodens M. S. Christ. & D. Haw Conidiomata 100–175 μm diam.; conidiogenous cells 6–8×2·5–4·0 μm. Lit.: & Hawksworth (2004) Lichenoconium xanthoriae M. S. C	ole & vksw. Cole hrist.
27(24)	Conidia aseptate Conidia 1-septate, $11-14 \times 2.5-3.0 \mu\text{m}$, upper end with $4-5(-6)$ hyaline append $14 \times 0.2 \mu\text{m}$; conidiomata dark brown, globose, $100-120 \mu\text{m}$ diam. Lit.: Eta Berger (2009) Pseudorobillard	. 28 lages iyo & l a sp.
28(27)	Conidiomata with setae	. 29 . 30
29(28)	Conidiomata 50–125 μm diam., setae 30–70 × 3·5–5·0 μm, arising near the os conidia 3–4 × 1·5–2·0 μm, without setulae. Lit.: Diederich (1990) Pyrenochaeta xanthoriae Died Conidiomata 150–800 μm diam., setae 100–850 × 3·0–6·5 μm, arising from part of conidiomata; conidia 8·0–12·5 × 2·0–2·5 μm, with a single, unbran setula at each end, 6·5–9·0 μm long. Lit.: Duan <i>et al.</i> (2007)	tiole; erich basal ched Sacc.
30(28)	Conidia wider than $1.5 \mu\text{m}$ Conidia $3-4 \times 1.0-1.5 \mu\text{m}$ (1-septate conidia are also present); conidio <i>c</i> . 170 μ m diam. Lit.: Etayo & Berger (2009) Phom	. 31 mata a sp.
31(30)	Conidia mainly 6–8×2·5–3·5 μm. Lit.: Hawksworth (1994), Ertz <i>et al.</i> (2015) Didymocyrtis slaptoniensis (D. Hawksw.) Hafellner & Conidia mainly less than 6·5×3·0 μm. Lit.: Ertz <i>et al.</i> (2015) Didymocyrtis epiphyscia	: Ertz s. lat.
32(22)	Conidia colourless	33 35
33(32)	Conidia fusiform, curved, both ends acute, 4–6 septate, 70–75 μm long; st cylindrical-clavate, shortly stipitate, reddish, pruinose, 1 mm high. Lit.: M (1893) Cosmospora flammea (Tul. & C. Tul.) Rossman & Sar Conidia shorter.	roma assee nuels 34
34(33)	Colonies white; conidia adhering in a slimy mass, aseptate, $4-6 \times 1.5-3.0 \mu\text{m}$. Hawksworth (1979) Acremonium antarcticum (Speg.) D. Haw Colonies pink; conidia not adhering in a slimy mass, multiseptate, 17–3 $11-20 \mu\text{m}$, individual cells $4-10 \times 3-5 \mu\text{m}$. Lit.: Lowen <i>et al.</i> (1986)	Lit.: vksw. 30 × vksw.

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35(32)	Colonies immersed in the host tissues (predominantly in hymenium)
36(35)	Conidia arising singly, aseptate, $3.5-6.0 \mu\text{m}$ diam. Lit.: Hawksworth & Punithalingam (1973) Xanthoriicola physciae (Kalchbr.) D. Hawksw. Conidia catenate, usually 1-septate, $5-8 \times 4-6 \mu\text{m}$. Lit.: Hawksworth & Cole (2002) Intralichen christiansenii (D. Hawksw.) D. Hawksw. & M. S. Cole
37(35)	Conidia aseptate or transversely septate; conidiophores not forming sporodochia
38(37)	Conidia transversely septate or aseptate, not spherical
39(38)	Conidia exceeding 20 µm in length
40(39)	Conidiophores cylindrical, (1–)4–10-septate, 63–228 × 5–10 μm; conidiogenous locus 2–3 μm wide; conidia pale brown, 20–70 × 8–13(–15) μm, 1–4- distoseptate. Lit.: Heuchert & Braun (2006) Corynespora laevistipitata (M. S. Cole & D. Hawksw.) Heuchert & U. Braun Conidiophores subcylindrical, 1–4-septate, 20–60(–95) × 5–8 μm; conidiogenous locus 3·0–4·5 μm wide; conidia brown, (19–)25–107 × 8–10 μm, (1–)2–12- distoseptate. Lit.: Heuchert & Braun (2006) Ellisembia lichenicola Heuchert & U. Braun
41(39)	Conidiophores 0–3 times branched, dark brown, erect, arising from internal hyphae or swollen hyphal cells; conidiogenous cells terminal, occasionally intercalary, with a single or usually several conidiogenous loci (up to 12); conidia usually catenate, in branched acropetal chains, pale brown to brown, 0–3-septate 42 Conidiophores branched (mostly multi-branched), pale brown, formed as erect to decumbent threads; conidiogenous cells terminal and intercalary with numerous conspicuous denticle-like conidiogenous loci (up to 35); conidia formed singly, (0–)1(–2)-septate, subhyaline to pale olivaceous brown, (7–)9–15(–17) × (2·5–) 3·0–4·0(–4·5) μm. Lit.: Berger <i>et al.</i> (2015)
42(41)	Conidia smooth, 3·5–20·0 × 3–7 μm. Lit.: Bensch <i>et al.</i> (2012) Cladosporium licheniphilum Heuchert & U. Braun Conidia verruculose, 8–20 × 5–9 μm. Lit.: Etayo & Berger (2009) Cladosporium macrocarpum Preuss

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