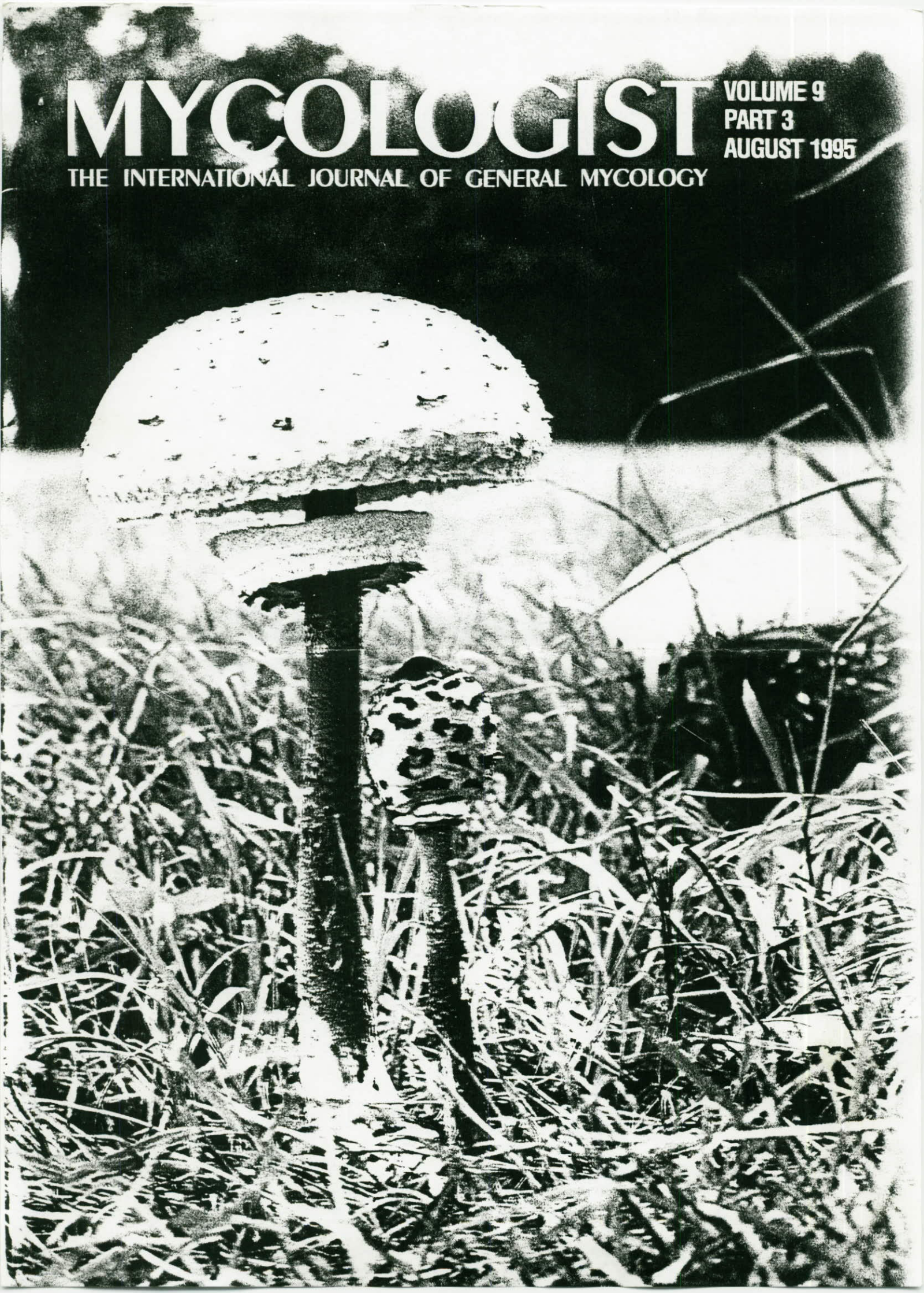


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COPRINUS NEMORALIS BENDER, NEW TO BRITAIN

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A collection of this recently described species, hitherto known only from the type material from Germany, was made by Kerry Robinson in Hertfordshire, England, in April 1994. An exsiccatum was sent to Dr C. B. Uljé in the Netherlands, who very kindly confirmed the identification; his microscopic data, obtained from a study of this material, are quoted within brackets after my own observations in the following description:

Coprinus nemoralis Bender apud Uljé & Noordeloos, *Persoonia* 15: 300, 1993. Fig 1.

Pileus 8 mm high before opening, expanding to 10 mm diam., a beautiful grey, darker at apex, covered in a thick, white, floccose veil. *Lamellae* free, finally black. *Stipe* 20–30 mm high, white flocculose when young, slightly lined at the base and there slightly tomentose. *Veil on pileus* comprising a mixture of globose to subglobose elements and very occasional somewhat inflated hyphal elements; globose, subglobose or limoni-form elements, thin walled, hyaline, smooth, 18–53 µm diam. or to 46 x 29 µm; hyphal elements occasional, hyaline to subhyaline, thin walled, but often with inflated ellipsoid or fusiform segments with slightly thickened refringent walls, 43–50 x 9–16 µm. *Cheilocystidia* thin walled, hyaline, ovoid to lageniform to 44–67 µm in length, with an inflated base 12–35 µm wide, narrowing gradually to a broadly rounded apex, 9–15 µm wide, or with a slight median constriction (Uljé finds greater variation to cylindrical, obpyriform and vesiculose.) *Pleurocystidia* similar, 39–50 x 15–26 x 8–9 µm. (Uljé also noted the similarity in shape of the cheilo- and pleurocystidia and gave a combined range of 25–85 x 10–35 (–40) µm). *Basidia* 17–20 x 9–10 µm (14–32 x 7.5–9 µm), 4-spored, thin walled, hyaline, clavate. (*Pseudoparaphyses* 3–6). *Spores* 10.5–13.0 x 6.0–7.5 µm ellipsoid, with a

small central germ pore (ellipsoid, in part slightly cylindrical; germ pore central, 10.4–12.8 x 6.4–7.5 µm).

Habitat: On very wet soil along the bank of a stream. Gobions Wood, Brookmans Park, Hertfordshire, 24 April 1994, coll. Kerry Robinson. (see Fig 4 on back cover of this issue).

Observations: The collector noted that 'also growing at the base of the fruitbodies were what looked

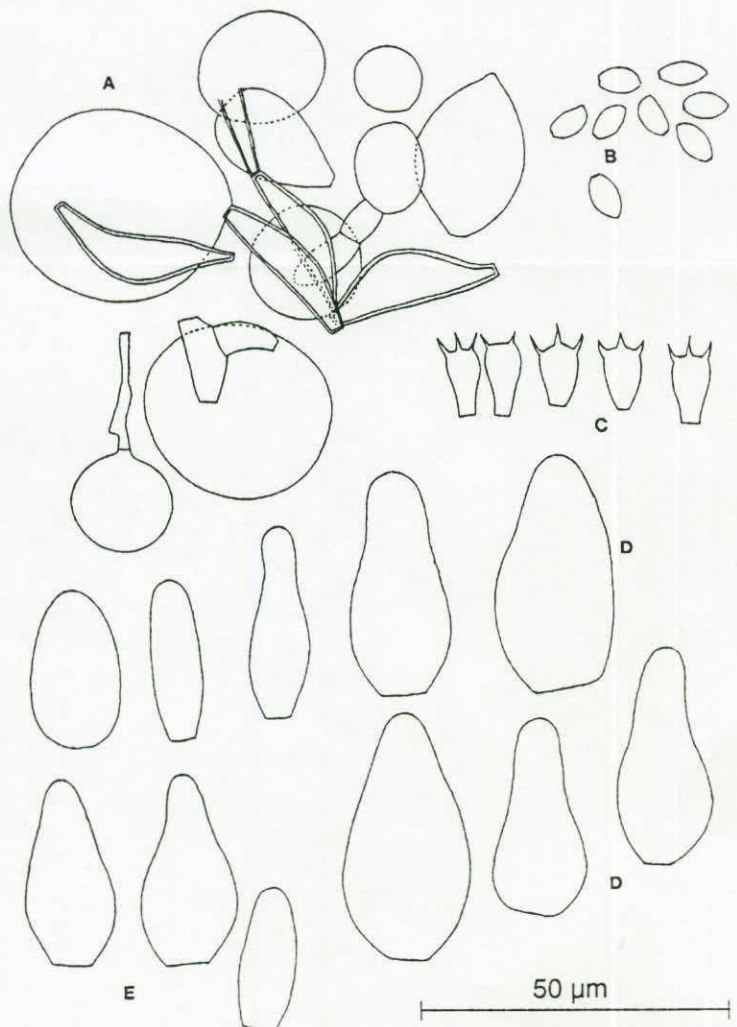


Fig 1 *Coprinus nemoralis*: A, velar elements from surface of pileus; B, spores; C, basidia; D, eight cheilocystidia; E, three pleurocystidia.

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like brown lumps 1 mm diam. – presumed to be its young stage.'

Using Orton & Watling's (1979) publication on the British species of *Coprinus*, the present gathering would key out close to *C. cortinatus* J. Lange. However, according to these authors, the latter differs from the Hertfordshire material in having smaller spores i.e. 9.5–11.0 x 5.0–6.0 µm, and in the lack of pleurocystidia.

Uljé & Noordeloos (1993) interpret *C. cortinatus*

in a quite different sense i.e. as a species with much smaller spores 6.2–9.7 x 4.3–6.0 µm, lacking both cheilo- and pleurocystidia.

References

- Orton, P.D. & Watling, R. (1979) British Fungus Flora *Agarics and Boleti*. 2. *Coprinaceae* Part 1: *Coprinus*. HMSO, Edinburgh.
- Uljé, C.B. & Noordeloos, M.E. (1993) Studies in *Coprinus* III, *Coprinus* section *veliformes*. Sub-division and revision of subsection *Nivei* emend. *Persoonia* 15: 257–301.

MYCOLOGICAL DISPATCHES

It is always a pleasure to find mycological reports of general interest in journals outside the field. Two which have appeared recently provide a stimulating insight into interrelations between fungi and other groups of organisms.

In *Nature* 25 May 1995 (375, p. 276) Henry Gee, in 'Mycological mystery tour', provides an excellent and very readable summary of a paper by Redhead et al. [*Squamanita contortipes*, the Rosetta Stone of a mycoparasitic agaric genus. *Canadian Journal of Botany* 72(1994): 1812–1824]. It transpires that the discovery of *S. contortipes* growing on a grossly distorted, but still recognizable and partially fertile, fruiting body of *Galerina* sp., an agaric, provided incisive evidence of obligate parasitism and gall formation by the genus *Squamanita*. This insight led to a reinterpretation of all squarmanitas as an intermixture of hosts and parasites and supplied a simple explanation for anatomical tissue composites that had been erroneously cited as evidence linking the Agaricaceae, Tricholomataceae and Amanitaceae. The study also clarifies the protracted controversy over the enlarged bases that usually bear chlamydospores; they are thought to

be similar in function to those formed by *Asterophora*.

The other report, in the 17 June 1995 issue of *New Scientist*, p. 6, is a note by Brian Homewood entitled 'Indians dying for a cup of coffee' and describes the plight of the Surui tribe of Amazonian Indians who live in Rondônia in western Brazil. Many of these people have been found to be infected with *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*, the cause of paracoccidioidomycosis. The fungus is a dimorphic ascomycete that is mycelial in culture below 30°C but on enriched media at 37°C or in host tissue produces large globose cells with numerous buds.

P. brasiliensis is endemic in most of South America and it is believed that the Indians become infected when they inhale it in the course of preparing ground to plant coffee, a process that involves extensive weed clearing and soil disturbance; it is thought that the Surui are particularly at risk because they use machetes rather than hoes, and therefore work closer to the ground. The yeast phase infects the skin and the lining of the lungs and can lead to fatal meningitis.

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MYCOLOGIST PLANS FOR 1996

The editors are looking ahead to 1996 which will be the third year of publication in the present format – and we seek your help and comment as readers, contributors, critics or sources of ideas for the development of the *Mycologist*. The material which we publish is collectively much more than the 'sum of the individual parts' but we recognize that the potential for contributions to the cause of furthering mycology in the broadest sense is almost unlimited. In particular, we would like to receive more short items, anecdotal notes, comments from field-orientated mycologists and of course photographs, which are welcome in black and white as well as colour. Alternatively, simply write us a letter!

GH