

***Lecidea consimilis* Nyl. occurs in France**

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Abstract: During the summer field meeting by the Dutch lichenological society in summer of 1992, a remarkable lichen was collected, seemingly a *Micarea* and recently identified, appears to belong to *Lecidea consimilis*. A first record for France.

Introduction

In a recent publication about new records for central Europe by Palice *et al.* (2018), *Lecidea consimilis* Nyl. was recorded from Slovakia (Muranska planina plateau), from decaying wood. That was the reason to take a good look at a find from 1992 again. It regards a specimen collected during the summer field meeting, by the Dutch Lichen Society, to southern France, the western Pyrenees. It refer strongly to a *Micarea* species, except the multi-spored asci (up to 32 spores per ascus). Thallus with algae of 4-8 µm diam. Apothecia up to c. 0.6 mm wide, subglobose, margin lacking and slightly constricted at base, paraphyses mostly sparingly branched, hypothecium olive brownish, epithecium hyaline or with olive-green pigment. Asci *Micarea*-type. Ascospores 5–8 × 2–2.5 µm, simple, narrowly ellipsoid to fusiform. Pycnidia abundantly present, sessile to often stalked, dark brown to blackish, several with a small white blob, conidia 2.5–5 × 1.5–2 µm, narrowly ellipsoid. It was growing on a decorticated dead standing trunk, c. 3 m tall, in a exceptional locality with well developed *Lobarion*. *Usnea longissima* Ach. was abundantly present as well as the very rare *Lecidea roseotineta* Coppins & Tønsberg (van den Boom *et al.* 1995). Several *Micarea* specimens were collected of which we only could identify *Micarea cinerea* at that time.



Fig. 1. *Lecidea consimilis*, apothecia and pycnidia.

Note

Our record of *Lecidea consimilis* was the second after the type of Norrlin from Finland in 1865. However Palice *et al.* (2018) has published a record from Slovakia, collected in 2000, so now there exists three collections worldwide. Further data about a description of this species can be found in Palice *et al.* (2018) in which the affinities with the *Lecidea malmeana* complex is discussed, most probably it belong to this group of very rare species. To exclude that *L. consimilis* belong in the genus *Micarea*, recent material is needed to find out this. The picture in Palice *et al.* (2018) shows a few apothecia and pycnidia, scarcely present. Our collection shows well developed apothecia and pycnidia, both abundantly present (Fig. 1). Dark forms of *Lecidea coriacea* Holien & Palice (Holien *et al.* 2016) can be overlooked for our species, a species recently described which has 12-16 spores per ascus, asci are also *Micarea* type. A further similar species with more than 8-spored asci is *Lecidea betulicola* (Kullh.) H. Magn., it has often dark brown apothecia but with a distinct small margin and pycnidia are unknown.

In summer of 2025, we went back to the locality in the Pyrenees, trying to find fresh material of this species. We visited that locality for a long time and what we encountered was a rather poorly developed Lobarion, *Lobaria pulmonaria* still present, mostly not well developed, but not any sign of *Lecidea consimilis* and even *Usnea longissima* has completely disappeared.

Specimen of *Lecidea consimilis* studied: FRANCE, Pyrenees-Atlantic, SW of Oloron Sainte Marie, E of St. Engrâce, E of road D132, Col de Labayas, *Fagus/Picea* forest with many stumps, 1350 m, 31 August 1992, P. & B. van den Boom 13061 (hb v.d. Boom).

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Maarten Brand for the help with identification. Thanks also to Bern van den Boom for her support of the fieldwork.

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