

## Polish resupinate Russulales: the genus *Vararia*

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The paper discusses three corticioid species of the genus *Vararia* P. Karst. Two species, *Vararia gallica* (Bourdot & Galzin) Boidin and *Vararia ochroleuca* (Bourdot & Galzin) Donk, are reported from Poland for the first time. The cosmopolitan species *Vararia investiens* P. Karst., previously known only from one Polish record, was rediscovered after over 100 years since the previous Polish collection. Macro- and micromorphological characters of the Polish collections are described and illustrated. The knowledge of their distribution and ecology is briefly summarized. A key to European members of the genus is given.

**Key words:** *Vararia*, *Peniophoraceae*, resupinate Russulales, fungal diversity

### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Vararia* P. Karst. belongs to a large family *Peniophoraceae* Lotsy in the order Russulales Kreisel ex M.P. Kirk, P.F. Cannon & J.C. David (Miller et al. 2006; Larsson 2007). It was first described by Karsten (1889) as a subgenus of *Xerocarpus* P. Karst. for *Xerocarpus alutarius* (Berk. & M. A. Curtis) P. Karst., which was later found to be a synonym of *Radulum investiens* Schwein. Karsten (1898) raised *Xerocarpus* subgen. *Vararia* to the generic rank. Type of the genus is a species with a dimittic hyphal system, clamped generative hyphae, dextrinoid dichohyphidia, sulphopositive gloeocystidia, utriform basidia, and smooth, thin-walled, fusoid basidiospores with an amyloid suprahilar plage. The second species, *Vararia ochroleuca* (Bourdot & Galzin) Donk, originally described under the name *Asterostromella ochroleuca* Bourdot & Galzin, was transferred to the genus by Donk (1930), and several further species were moved to *Vararia* by Rogers and Jackson (1943). The genus was later studied by Cunningham (1955, 1963), Gilbertson (1965) and Welden (1965), who described some new species from New Zealand, North and Central America, respectively. *Vararia* was studied in detail by Boidin, Lanquetin and Gilles. They described many new species from French overseas territories (Guadeloupe, Réunion),

Gabon and the Central African Republic (e.g., Boidin 1967; Boidin, Lanquetin 1975, 1977, 1984; Boidin et al. 1976, 1987; Boidin, Gilles 1999). The genus was also studied in Asiatic Russia (Parmasto 1965, 1970), Argentina (Greslebin, Rajchenberg 1997) and Hawaii (Gilbertson, Hemmes 1997). It is quite well known at present and includes about 60 species which mainly occur in tropical and subtropical areas of the world (Boidin, Gilles 1999; Hjortstam, Ryvarden 2007). In Europe *Vararia* is not well represented, having only 7 species, all of which are rarely reported (Hallenberg, Eriksson 1985; Boidin, Michel 1998).

In Poland, only *Vararia investiens* was previously reported from three localities situated closely together in the vicinity of Międzyrzec Podlaski (NE Poland) (Eichler 1900, 1904, as *Corticium investiens* (Schwein.) Bres.). *Vararia* species were not reported from Poland over the next one hundred years.

The aim of this paper is to review the current state of knowledge on the genus *Vararia* in Poland.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study is based on specimens collected by the author during field studies in the Białowieża Forest (Równina Bielska plain), the Kaszubski Landscape Park (Pojezierze Kaszubskie lakeland) and the Puszcza Niepołomska forest (Nizina Nadwiślańska lowland), carried out during the vegetation seasons of 2008 and 2009.

The colour and configuration of the hymenial surface and marginal zone were noted using fresh specimens. Macromorphological characters were additionally observed in dried materials, while micromorphological characters only in dried specimens. Freehand sections of each specimen were made under a Nikon SMZ-2T microscope with a normal razor blade and observed under a Nikon Eclipse E-400 light microscope with  $\times 1250$  magnification and using an oil immersion objective. Microstructural elements were examined and measured in Melzer's reagent, 5% KOH and cotton blue in lactic acid. Sulphovanillin was used to observe reactions of gloeocystidia. The formulae for these can be found in Hjortstam et al. (1987). Spore measurements in the descriptions of the species are based on 30 measurements per specimen. The following abbreviations are used in the descriptions of species:  $L^m$  = mean length of all measurements of spores from all collections of the species,  $W^m$  = mean width of all measurements of spores from all collections of the species,  $Q^m = L^m$  to  $W^m$  ratio,  $Q$  = length to width range ratio,  $n$  = number of measurements. Spore size is given without the apiculus. Extreme values are given in parentheses and the 90 % most commonly recorded values are given in between. None of the measurements were taken from a spore print. Line drawings were made by author with a drawing tube (Nikon Y-IDT) or were made from images acquired with a Nikon Coolpix 4500 digital camera. Specimens are deposited at KRAM and duplicates are in the author's private herbarium (DK).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

*Vararia gallica* (Bourdot & Galzin) Boidin

Figs 1–3

Bull. Soc. Nat. Oyonnax 5: 78 (1951).

*Asterostromella epiphylla* var. *gallica* Bourdot & Galzin, Bull. Soc. mycol. Fr. 27(2): 265 (1911).

*Asterostromella gallica* (Bourdot & Galzin) Bourdot & Galzin in Pilát, Anns mycol. 25(3/4): 255 (1927).

Basidiocarps annual, resupinate, widely effused, membranaceous, waxy-crustose and partly pulverulent, very thin, up to 45  $\mu\text{m}$  thick, closely adnate, not separable. Margin not differentiated, thin but clear, rhizomorphs or hyphal strands absent. Hymenial surface smooth, indistinctly farinose, under the lens rough by projections of ultimate branches of dichohyphidia, whitish when fresh, whitish-grey to pale cream when dry. Hyphal system dimitic. Generative hyphae 1.5–3.0  $\mu\text{m}$ , without clamp connections, hyaline, thin-walled, forming very thin subicular layer consisting of hyphae parallel to the substratum. Catahymenium composed with dichohyphidia, gloeocystidia and basidia. Dichohyphidia grow singly or in small groups, rarely forming dense concentrations, dichotomously branched with branched part more or less globose in outline, resembling asterohyphidia of *Asterostroma laxum* Bres., with relatively long ultimate branches, up to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; individual branches thick-walled with narrow lumen, 1.5–2.0  $\mu\text{m}$  wide, with subulate ends, thick walls strongly dextrinoid and cyanophilous, hyaline or pale cream-yellowish when observed in 5% KOH. Gloeocystidia 15.0–32.0  $\times$  4.0–5.5  $\mu\text{m}$ , sulphonegative, cylindrical, clavate and fusiform, most often with a single or uniquely with two outgrowths up to 8  $\mu\text{m}$  long. Basidia cylindrical with constriction in the middle part to typically utriform, 23–42  $\times$  4–6  $\mu\text{m}$ , basal part up to 10.5  $\mu\text{m}$  wide, with 4 sterigmata, without basal clamp. Basidiospores (7.8–)9.6–11.2(–11.5)  $\times$  (4.0–)4.4–5.0(–5.5)  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $L^m = 9.89 \mu\text{m}$ ;  $W^m = 4.90 \mu\text{m}$ ;  $Q^m = 2.02$ ;  $Q = 1.7$ –2.52;  $n = 60$ ), pin-shaped, lacrymoid to fusiform, always with rounded apex, smooth, hyaline, thin-walled, with indistinctly amyloid suprahilar plage, a few with oil droplets inside, non-dextrinoid, non-cyanophilous.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED. Poland. Pojezierza Południowobałtyckie lakelands, Pojezierze Kaszubskie lake-land, Zawory, ca. 5 km SW of Kartuzy, on the bank of the Jezioro Kłodno lake, *Phragmites australis*, on dead stems of *Phragmites australis* Trin. ex Steud., 25 Oct. 2008, leg. D. Karasiński 2548 (KRAM F-48006); the same locality, habitat and host, 30 Nov. 2008, leg. D. Karasiński 2569 (DK-2569).

COMMENTS. *Vararia gallica* is distinguished from other European *Vararia* species by a whitish and very thin basidiocarp, the shape and size of spores, stellate dichohyphidia, the absence of clamps on generative hyphae and the occurrence in wet localities on dead stems of herbaceous plants or, rarely, on fallen twigs of deciduous trees (e.g., *Salix*). *Vararia cremeoavellanea* Pouzar is very similar but differs from *Vararia gallica* by having shorter spores (up to 9.5  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and wider gloeocystidia (6–9  $\mu\text{m}$ ). It occurs on dead wood in dry places with xerothermic vegetation.

Boidin & Lanquetin (1975) selected Bourdot's collection from *Juncus* L. as the lectotype of *Vararia gallica*. *V. gallica* has also been reported from *Anthriscus* Pers., *Dryopteris* Adans., *Rubus idaeus* L., *Rubus fruticosus* L., *Scirpus* L., *Typha* L., *Polygonatum* Mill. and *Salix*. Dead stems of *Phragmites australis*, lying on the bank

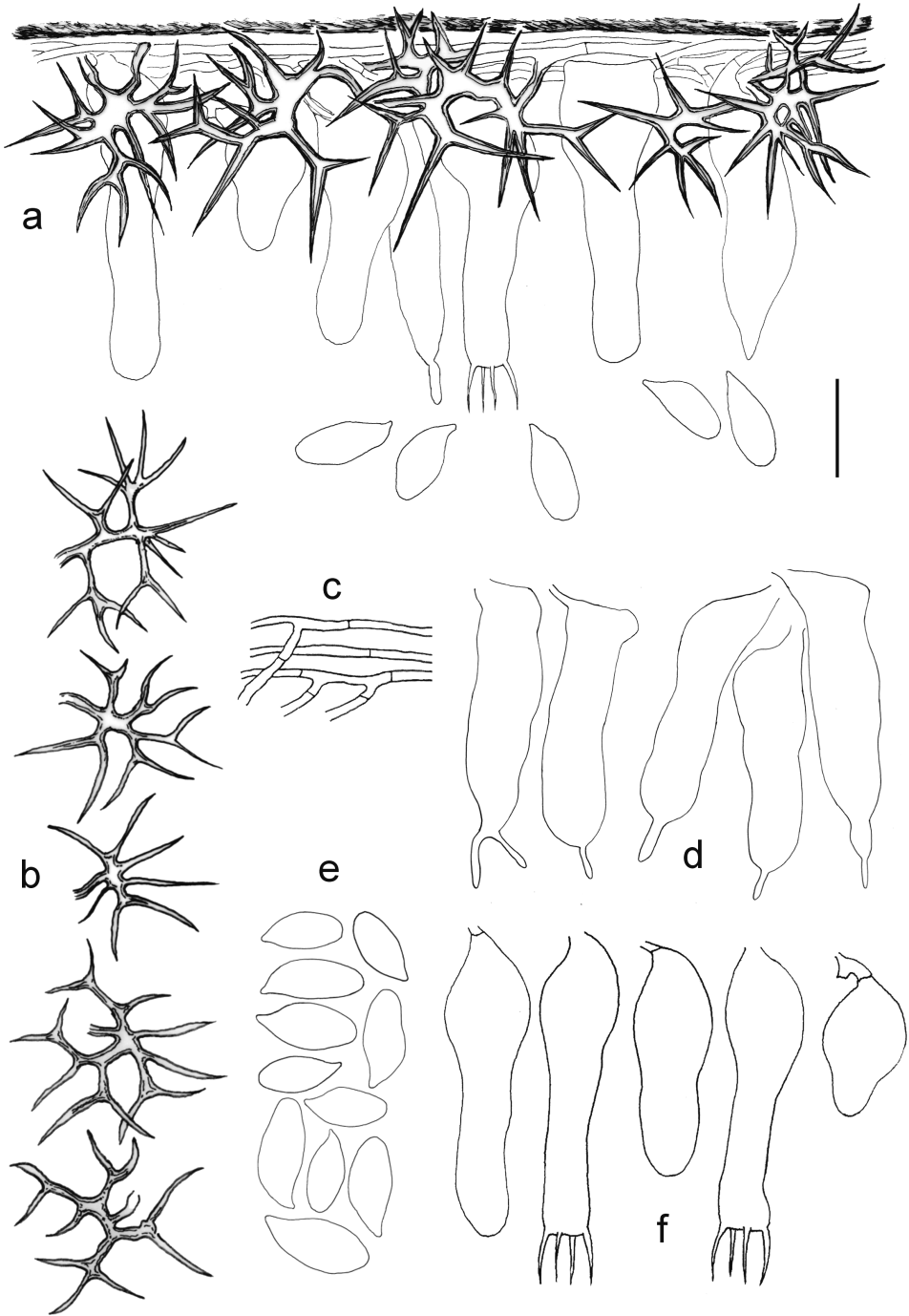


Fig. 1. *Vararia gallica*: a) fragment of section through basidocarp, b) dichohyphidia, c) generative hyphae, d) gloeocystidia, e) spores, f) basidioles and basidia KRAM F-48006. Scale bar = 10  $\mu$ m.



Fig. 2. *Vararia gallica* on dead stems of *Phragmites australis* KRAM F-48006 (Phot. D. Karasiński).



Fig. 3. *Vararia gallica* on dead stems of *Phragmites australis* DK-2569 (Phot. D. Karasiński).



Fig. 4. *Vararia investiens* on rotten wood of fallen branch of *Fagus sylvatica* KRAM F-48008 (Phot. D. Karasiński).



Fig. 5. *Vararia investiens* on rotten wood of fallen trunk of *Populus tremula* KRAM F-48009 (Phot. D. Karasiński).

of the lake, are for the first time reported as a substrate for this species. In Poland, *Phragmitetum australis* (Gams 1927) Schmale 1939 is a commonly occurring plant association (Matuszkiewicz 2007), but its fungal diversity is poorly recognized (Mazurkiewicz-Zapałowicz et al. 2006). It may therefore be possible to find further localities of *Vararia gallica* in this plant association.

The literature data indicate that *Vararia gallica* is a very rare European species, reported from Denmark (Christiansen 1960), France (Boidin, Lanquetin 1975; Boidin, Gilles 1999; Boidin, Michel 1998), Germany (Grosse-Brauckmann, Kummer 2004), the Netherlands (Arnolds et al. 1995), the Czech Republic (Pouzar 1982), Sweden (Hjortstam 1984), Estonia (Parmasto, Parmasto 2005), Spain (Tellería 1990) and Poland. A single specimen of *Vararia gallica* was reported from the Lanaittu Valley in Sardinia in Italy. The specimen was collected from the stems of *Helichrysum* Mill. growing below the soil line (Bernicchia 2001; Onofri 2005). The occurrence on herbaceous plants is indeed characteristic of *Vararia gallica*, but the collection site has a hot and dry climate with thermo-xerophyte Mediterranean vegetation.

*Vararia investiens* (Schwein.) P. Karst.

Figs 4–6

Kritisk Öfversigt af Finlands Basidsvampar. Tillägg 3: 32. Helsingfors (1898).

*Radulum investiens* Schwein., Trans. Amer. Phil. Soc. II p. 165 (1832).

*Corticium investiens* (Schwein.) Bres., I. R. Accad. Agiati Atti III p. 110 (1897).

*Corticium alutarium* Berk. & Cook, Grevillea 2(13): 4 (1873).

Basidiocarps annual, resupinate, widely effused, membranaceous when fresh to chalky-crustaceous when dry, not separable, up to 0.4 mm thick, forming irregular patches and linear areas up to 35 cm long and 10 cm wide. Hymenial surface smooth, slightly pulverulent under lens, cream, straw-coloured, warm yellow or ochraceous, sterile parts sometimes with a pale orange tint. Margin usually paler than the hymenial surface, thinning out, adnate, powdery to fibrillose, a few narrow hyphal strands sometimes present. Hyphal system dimitic. Generative hyphae clamped, clamps present at all primary septa, hyaline, 1.6–4.8  $\mu\text{m}$  wide, scantily branched, mainly thin-walled, but thick-walled to nearly solid hyphae also present in the subicular layer and in the core of hyphal strands. Dichohyphae and dichohyphidia are predominant structures in all parts of the basidiocarp, thick-walled, with main branches 0.8–3.2  $\mu\text{m}$  wide, pale yellow in 5% KOH, with variable dextrinoid reaction, from golden yellow red to dark red brown. Dichohyphae present in hyphal strands, subicular and subhymenial layer, with long main and ultimate branches, up to 55  $\mu\text{m}$ , main branches up to 3  $\mu\text{m}$  wide. Dichohyphidia in the hymenial layer more robust than subicular and subhymenial ones, more or less ellipsoid in outline, with main branches up to 4.5  $\mu\text{m}$  wide, ultimate branches slender and pointed. Septate “elbow-like” swellings sometimes observed on the main branches of dichohyphidia. Catahymenium consists of dichohyphidia, basidia and gloeocystidia. Gloeocystidia irregular in shape, cylindrical, clavate to subulate, few with schizopapillae; subulate gloeocystidia 30–48  $\times$  3.5–4.8  $\mu\text{m}$ , cylindrical and clavate gloeocystidia 35–80  $\times$  4–10  $\mu\text{m}$ , thin-walled, with yellowish, granular content; all cystidia sulphonegative. Basidia scanty, cylindrical to clavate and elongate, with constriction, 30–45  $\times$  4–5  $\mu\text{m}$ , with 4 sterigmata, basal part up to 7.5  $\mu\text{m}$  wide. Basidiospores pip-shaped, lacrymoid to fusiform or clavate-fusiform, with a rounded apex and long acuminate tip often separated from the main spore body by a (pseudo)septum, sometimes collapsed, smooth, thin-walled,

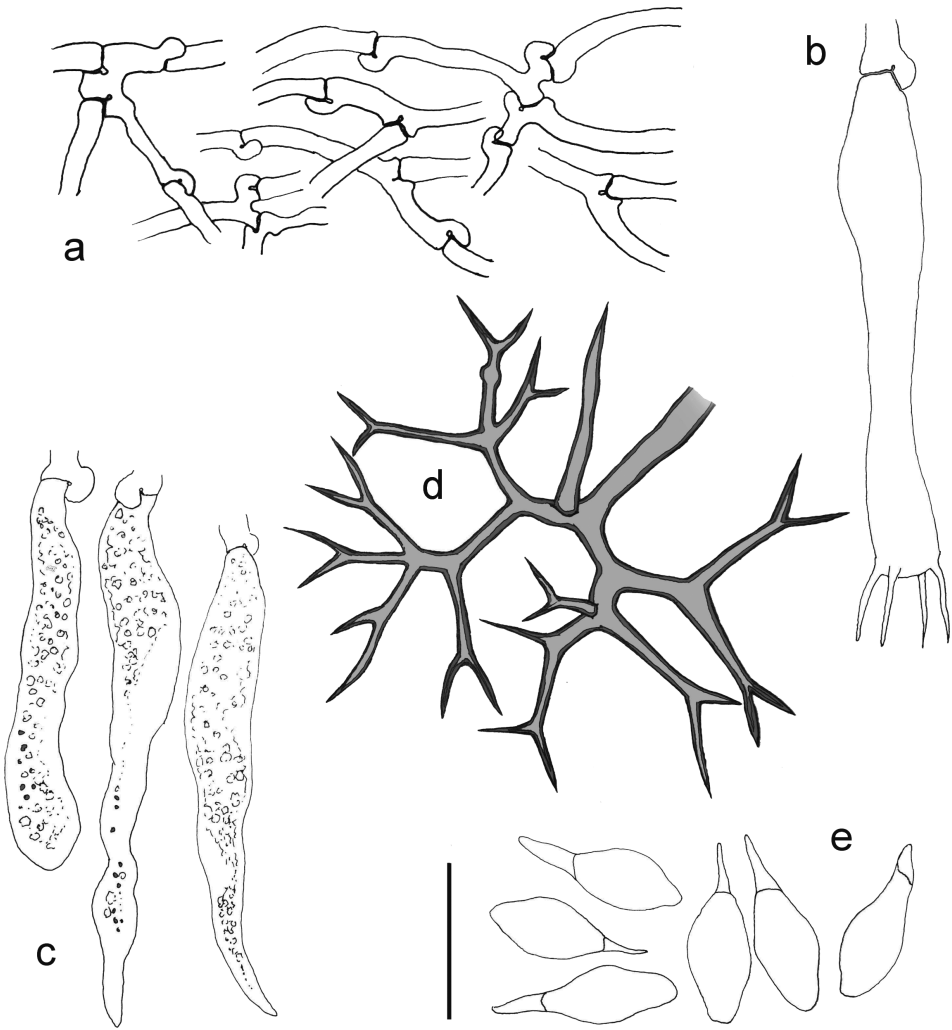


Fig. 6. *Vararia investiens*: a) subicular hyphae, b) basidium, c) gloeocystidia, d) dichohyphidium, e) spores KRAM F-48008. Scale bar = 10  $\mu$ m.

(7.5-)8.5-11.2(-11.8)  $\times$  (3.0-)3.2-4.0(-4.3)  $\mu$ m ( $L^m$  = 10.66  $\mu$ m;  $W^m$  = 3.95  $\mu$ m;  $Q^m$  = 2.69;  $Q$  = 2.25-3.47;  $n$  = 60), with amyloid suprahilar plage, non-cyanophilous.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED. Poland. Pojezierza Południowobałtyckie lakelands, Pojezierze Kaszubskie lake-land, Staniszewskie Zdroje Reserve, ca. 1.5 km SW of Mirachowo, on the slope of an unnamed stream ravine, on rotten wood of a fallen trunk of *Populus tremula* L., 4 July 2008, leg. D. Karasiński 1838 (KRAM F-48009); Ostrzycki Las Reserve, beech forest on the bank of the Jezioro Ostrzyckie lake, on rotten wood of a fallen branch of *Fagus sylvatica* and dead beech leaves in litter, 21 July 2009, leg. D. Karasiński 3497 (KRAM F-48008).

COMMENTS. Main characters of *Vararia investiens* are the presence of clamp connections on generative hyphae and fusiform spores with a (pseudo)septum. Basidiospores are unique among European members of the genus: a (pseudo)septate



spore tip is observed only in this species making its determination quite easy. Other species with fusiform spores with secondary (pseudo)septum are known from subtropical and tropical areas and, in general, their spores are longer than those of *Vararia investiens*.

*Vararia investiens* seems to be the most common, widely distributed, almost cosmopolitan species, so far known from Europe (e.g., Boidin, Michel 1998; Boidin, Gilles 1999), Asia (Parmasto 1970; Ying 1980; Teng 1996), North and Central America (Rogers, Jackson 1943; Gilbertson 1965; Welden 1965; Ginns, Lefebvre 1993), South America (Dennis 1970; Hjortstam, Ryvarde 2007) and Australia (Cunningham 1963) and New Zealand. Welden (1965) cited specimens of *Vararia investiens* from Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Canada and the USA. The material from Puerto Rico has spores measuring  $18\text{--}21 \times 3\text{--}4 \mu\text{m}$  which are longer than usually reported in *Vararia investiens* and the collection probably represents *Vararia cremea* Boidin, Lanq. & Gilles.

In Europe *Vararia investiens* occurs in Denmark (Christiansen 1960), Estonia (Järva, Parmasto 1980), France (Boidin, Michel 1998; Boidin, Gilles 1999), Finland, Norway, Sweden (Hjortstam 1984; Hallenberg, Eriksson 1985), Germany (Krieglsteiner 1991), Italy (Onofri 2005), Spain (Telleria 1990) and Ukraine (Akulov et al. 2003).

From Poland the species was previously reported by Eichler (1900, 1904, as *Corticium investiens* (Schwein.) Bres.). The specimen reported in the 1900 paper was probably fertile and was identified by Bresadola. Subsequent collections, mentioned in the publication from 1904, were certainly sterile (Eichler (1904) wrote: "I did not see basidiospores") and thus their determination should be regarded as uncertain.

***Vararia ochroleuca*** (Bourdot & Galzin) Donk

Figs 7–9

Ned. Kruid. Arch. 3: 79.

*Asterostromella ochroleuca* Bourdot & Galzin, Bull. Soc. mycol. Fr. 27(2): 266 (1911).

Basidiocarps annual, resupinate, forming irregular, scattered patches when covering wood remnants in litter and widely effused, circular or elongate areas up to 20 cm long when growing on the underside of fallen branches and trunks, closely adnate, not separable, soft membranaceous to crustaceous, brittle with age and when dry. Hymenial surface smooth and indistinctly pruinose, cream-coloured to pallid ochraceous. Margin brighter than hymenial surface, whitish, thin or partially thinning out, farinose to delicately fibrillose, sometimes with a few narrow hyphal strands. Context on the transverse section white to cream-coloured,  $120\text{--}270 \mu\text{m}$  thick. Hyphal system dimitic. Generative hyphae few,  $2.0\text{--}3.0 \mu\text{m}$ , without clamp connections, hyaline, rarely branched and sometimes with anastomoses. Dichohyphidia very abundant and of two kinds: 1) forming loose texture in the subicular and subhymenial layer,  $0.5\text{--}1.8 \mu\text{m}$  thick, dichotomously branched, with long ultimate branches up to  $45 \mu\text{m}$  long; 2) dichohyphidia in hymenial layer with denser and shorter branches than subhymenial and subhymenial ones, more or less globose in outline, dichotomously branched, with short ultimate branches,  $2.0\text{--}6.0 \mu\text{m}$  long, subulate at top, thick-walled, almost hyaline to straw-coloured or yellowish in KOH but strongly dextrinoid (dark red brown) in Melzer's reagent. Thick walls of dichohyphidia cyanophilous. The cataphyllum consists of dichohyphidia as well as of gloeocystidia and basidia. Gloeocystidia  $16\text{--}34 \times 4.5\text{--}7.5 (10.0) \mu\text{m}$ , with

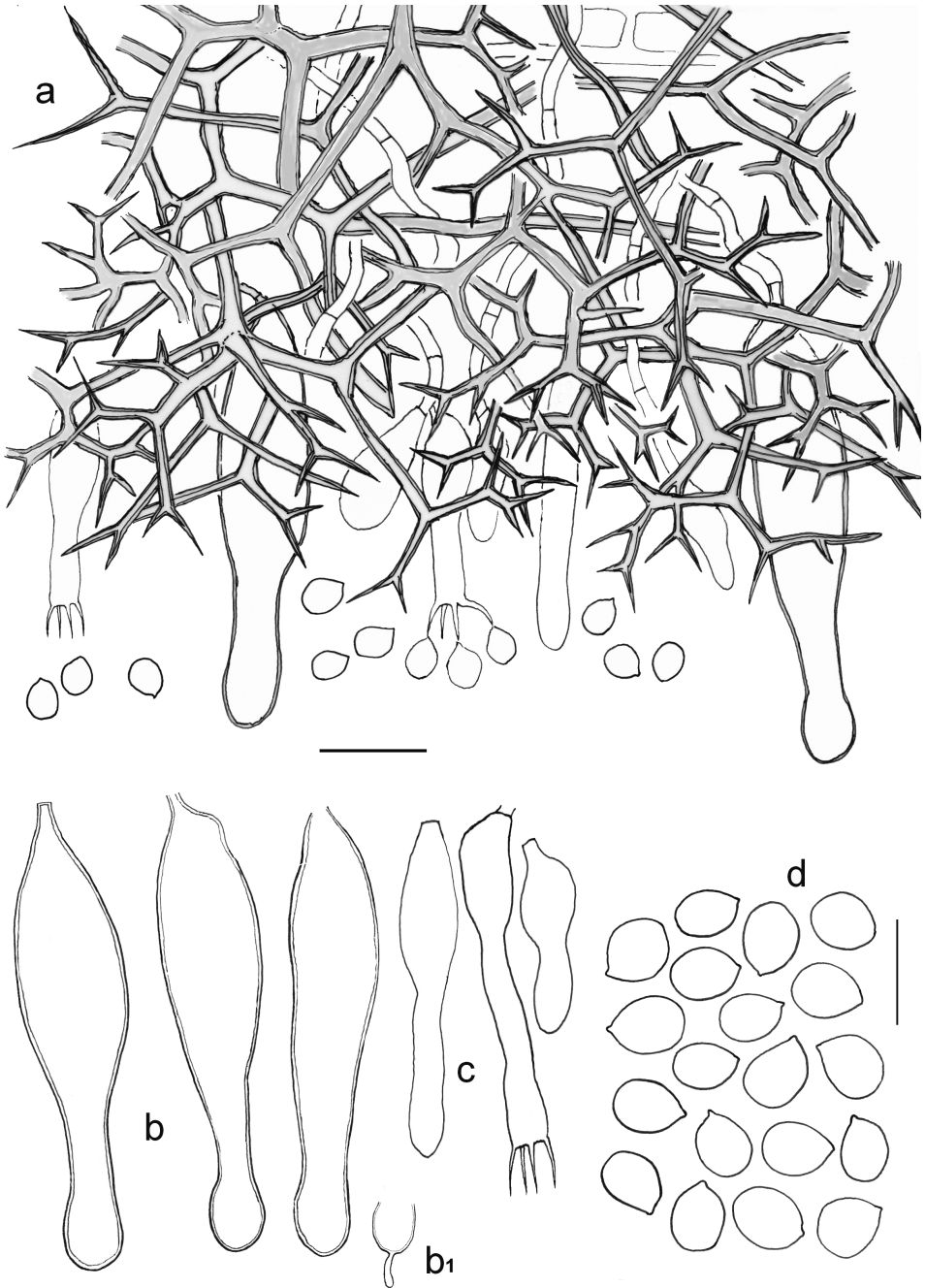


Fig. 7. *Vararia ochroleuca*: a) fragment of section through hymenial and subhymenial layer of basidocarp, b) gloeocystidia, b1) apex of gloeocystidium with schizopapillae, c) two basidioles and basidium, d) spores KRAM F-48007. Scale bars for a-c = 10  $\mu$ m, for d = 5  $\mu$ m.



Fig. 8. *Vararia ochroleuca* on pieces of wood and plants remnants in forest litter KRAM F-48004 (Phot. D. Karasiński).



Fig. 9. *Vararia ochroleuca* on pieces of wood and plants remnants in forest litter KRAM F-48005 (Phot. D. Karasiński).

walls slightly thickened with age, apex obtuse, but sometimes with a schizopapilla up to 8  $\mu\text{m}$  long. Basidia 25-38  $\times$  2.5-4.5  $\mu\text{m}$ , utriform, with 4 sterigmata, without basal clamp, projecting over hymenial layer up to 20  $\mu\text{m}$ . Spores (2.6-)2.8-3.8(-4.2)  $\times$  (2.0-)2.2-3.0(-3.2)  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $L^m = 3.42 \mu\text{m}$ ;  $W^m = 2.55 \mu\text{m}$ ;  $Q^m = 1.34$ ;  $Q = 1.14-1.46$ ;  $n = 90$ ), mostly broadly ellipsoid to drop-shaped or sometimes somewhat subglobose, with non-prominent but distinctly visible apiculus, sometimes with one small oil-drop inside, thin-walled, smooth, hyaline, non-amyloid, non-dextrinoid, non-cyanophilous.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED. Poland. Północne Podkarpacie region, Nizina Nadwiślańska lowland, Puszcza Niepołomska forest, forest section 98, in a mixed anthropogenic forest with *Fagus* L., *Pinus* L. and *Corylus* L. growing on a pine-oak forest habitat, on small pieces of wood, fragments of deciduous and coniferous twigs, dead beech leaves, fallen pine needles and other plant remnants lying on the forest litter, 11 Apr. 2008, leg. D. Karasiński (KRAM F-48005); the same locality, habitat and host 18 May 2008, leg. D. Karasiński (KRAM F-48004); Wysoczyzny Podlasko-Białoruskie high plains, Równina Bielska plain, Białowieża Forest, Białowieża National Park, Hwoźna Protected Area, forest section 225A, 52°46'38.3" N, 23°51'52.1" E, humid oak-lime-hornbeam forest, on the bark of a fallen, strongly decayed trunk of *Quercus robur* L., 14 Sept. 2009, leg. D. Karasiński 4132 (KRAM F-48007).

COMMENTS. The species is easily recognizable by its small, ellipsoid, non-amyloid spores, the absence of clamps on generative hyphae and sulphonegative, ventricose-rostrate and obtuse cystidia, very few with schizopapillae. In the field, *Vararia ochroleuca* may be confused with well developed specimens of *Amphinema byssoides* (Pers.) J. Erikss., which has the same ecological preferences and mostly covers wood remnants in forest litter. In addition, spores of both species are somewhat similar in shape and size. Basidiocarps of the latter are more delicate, softer, with a byssoid subiculum and distinctly fibrillose margin. *Amphinema byssoides* is monomitic and has hyphoid, finely encrusted leptocystidia, and lacks dextrinoid dichohyphidia.

*Vararia ochroleuca* is very rarely reported from Europe. It is overlooked in field studies because its inconspicuous basidiocarps, often hidden in forest litter. It is known from two localities in Sweden (Hallenberg, Eriksson 1985) and a single locality in Norway (Ryvarden et al. 2003). It is known from one record from Germany (Krieglsteiner 1991), a few collections from France (Boidin, Lanquetin 1975), the Netherlands (Donk 1930; Arnolds et al. 1995), Austria (Dämon 2001; Hallenberg, Michelitsch 1983), Great Britain (Legon et al. 2005), Estonia (Parmasto 1970; Järva, Parmasto 1980), Italy (Onofri 2005) and Spain (Tellería 1990). Outside Europe, it was recorded in Armenia and Asiatic Russia (Parmasto 1970). *Vararia ochroleuca* reported from India (Thind, Rattan 1973) represented *Vararia vassilievae* Parmasto (Rattan 1977). New Zealand's specimens published under the name *Vararia ochroleuca* (Cunningham 1963) belongs to *Vararia cunninghamii* Boidin & Lanq. (Boidin, Lanquetin 1975). It is currently known from New Zealand and southern Argentina (Greslebin, Rajchenberg 1997). Further small-spored species of *Vararia*, for example *Vararia fibra* Welden and *Vararia alticola* Corner & Boidin occur in subtropical and tropical areas of the world (Welden 1965; Boidin, Lanquetin 1984).

KEY TO THE EUROPEAN SPECIES OF THE GENUS *VARARIA*

This key is prepared based on literature data and specimens examined by the author. Four of the seven taxa included into the key were not recorded in Poland yet, but their occurrence in the country is possible.

As spore size and shape seem to be excellent features differentiating *Vararia* species known from Europe so far, the author used them as the main characters in the key. The presence or absence of clamp connections on generative hyphae, basidiocarps macromorphology and ecology are given as supplementary characters.

1. Basidiospores small, up to 4 µm long, broadly ellipsoid to ovoid or subglobose, without amyloid reaction, clamps absent, on wood and plant remnants in litter ..... *V. ochroleuca*
- 1\*. Basidiospores shape and size not as above ..... 2
2. Basidiospores subcylindrical to fusiform, 8-16 µm long ..... 3
- 2\*. Basidiospores ellipsoid-subcylindrical to suballantoid, up to 8 µm long ..... 6
3. Basidiospores usually with proximal part separated by secondary (pseudo)septum, generative hyphae with clamp connections, on hardwood and leaf litter ..... *V. investiens*
- 3\*. Basidiospores without secondary (pseudo)septum, clamps absent ..... 4
4. Basidiospores 12.0-16.0 × 3.7-4.5 µm, subcylindrical, tapering towards apiculus, cystidia enclosed, obtuse, in context encrusted, on *Thuja* (Denmark, France) ..... *V. hauerslevii*
- 4\*. Basidiospores shorter, cystidia enclosed or partly projecting, obtuse or subulate, frequently with schizopapillae, not encrusted ..... 5
5. Basidiocarps very thin, whitish, basidiospores 8.0-12.0 × 3.0-5.5 µm, cystidia 4-7 µm wide, on dead stems of herbaceous plants, rarely on fallen twigs (e.g., *Salix*) in wet localities ..... *V. gallica*
- 5\*. Basidiocarps powdery-membranaceous, cream-coloured, basidiospores 7.7-9.5 × 3.8-5.0 µm, cystidia 6-9 µm wide, on wood in dry places (xerothermic habitats) ..... *V. cremeoavellanea*
6. Basidiospores ellipsoid-subcylindrical with one side straight, 5.5-7.5 × 2.5-3.0 µm, with an amyloid suprahilar patch, generative hyphae without clamps, on wood of *Picea abies*, known from northern Europe (Sweden) ..... *V. racemosa* ssp. *lapponica*
- 6\*. Basidiospores suballantoid, 5.0-7.5 × 1.8-2.5 µm, distinctly amyloid, clamps present, on *Juniperus*, known only from southern Europe (France, Italy) ..... *V. parmastoi*

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## Polskie Russulales o rozpostartych owocnikach: rodzaj *Vararia*

### Streszczenie

W pracy przedstawiono 3 rzadko notowane gatunki grzybów kortycjoidalnych z rodzaju *Vararia* (Basidiomycota, Agaricomycetes, Russulales). Materiały zebrano w Kaszubskim Parku Krajobrazowym, Białowieskim Parku Narodowym i Puszczy Niepołomickiej. *Vararia gallica* i *Vararia ochroleuca* są nowe dla mikrobioty Polski. *Vararia investiens* była znana wcześniej z okolic Międzyrzecza Podlaskiego gdzie gatunek ten ostatni raz zbierano ponad 100 lat temu. Zamieszczono szczegółowe opisy polskich okazów i oryginalne ilustracje cech makro- i mikromorfologicznych omawianych grzybów. Praca zawiera również podsumowanie wiedzy o ich rozmieszczeniu i ekologii, a także krótkie dyskusje taksonomiczne. Zaproponowano klucz do rodzaju *Vararia* uwzględniający taksony stwierdzone dotychczas w Europie.