Coccomycetella richardsonii (Odontotremataceae, Ostropales),
an ascomycete new to Norway

Håkon Holien¹, Paul Diederich²

¹Faculty of Agriculture and Information Technology, Nord-Trøndelag University College, P.O. Box 2501, NO-7729 Steinkjer, Norway.
²Musée national d’histoire naturelle, 25 rue Munster, L-2160 Luxembourg, Luxembourg.

Corresponding author: hakon.holien@hint.no

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NØKKELORD
Coccomycetella richardsonii, død ved, furu, høgstubbe, Norge, utbredelse

SAMMENDRAG
Sekksporesoppen Coccomycetella richardsonii er påvist i Norge for første gang. Den vokste på en død, avbarket furu på en ombrotrof myr i nordboreal vegetasjonssone i et landskap preget av veksling mellom myr og relativt glissement barskog. De små, svarte fruktlegemene har tannet poråpning, dypt nedsenket hymenium og sigmoide sporer som er spiralsnodd inne i sporesekkene.

ABSTRACT
The odontotremoid ascomycete Coccomycetella richardsonii is reported as new to Norway from wood (snag) of Pinus sylvestris in a boreal landscape with mires in an open coniferous forest. The species is characterized by black ascomata with deeply sunken hymenium and sigmoid ascospores that are twisted in the ascus.

INTRODUCTION
The monospecific genus Coccomycetella belongs to the family Odontotremataceae that includes mainly saprotrophic species (Sherwood-Pike 1987, Diederich et al. 2002, Baloch et al. 2013). Recently the family was shown to be polyphyletic with two rather distantly related clades, and Coccomycetella was suggested to be closely related to the generic type Odontotrema phacidioides (Baloch et al. 2013).

During fieldwork in a nature reserve in Verdal, Central Norway, in the summer of 2012, the first author collected lichens on dead decorticated trunks of Pinus sylvestris. In one collection of Pycnora xanthococca an unknown odontotremoid ascomycete was associated. This species was later identified by the second author as Coccomycetella richardsonii Leight. The locality was revisited by the first author in the autumn of 2013 and C. richardsonii proved to be quite common on this trunk, but was not found on nearby trees.

THE SPECIES
Coccomycetella richardsonii is mainly characterized by partly immersed to erumpent, c. 0.4–0.5 mm diameter, black ascomata with a dentate pore and deeply sunken hymenium (Figs. 1 – 2). Microscopically it is distinct by the narrow, sigmoid, 1-3-septate ascospores that are twisted in the ascus and by a brownish
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pigment in the outer excipulum (Figs. 2 - 3). For a detailed description see Sherwood-Pike (1987).

*Coccomycetella richardsonii* is a saprotrophic species on conifer wood. The Norwegian specimen was growing on a dead, decorticated trunk of *Pinus sylvestris* in an ombrotrophic mire within a nature reserve situated in the northern boreal zone as defined by Moen (1999) (Fig. 4). The species occurred on several square-decimeters with many ascomata. Associated lichen species on the trunk included *Buellia arborea*, *Calicium glaucellum*, *Imshaugia aleurites*, *Protoparmelia oleagina* and *Pycnora xanthococca*. The species is here reported as new to the Norwegian fungi as it is neither cited in the index of Norwegian fungi given by the Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre (2014) nor in the catalog by Aarnæs (2002).

Outside Norway, *C. richardsonii* is reported from dead, decorticated twigs of *Pinus sylvestris* and wood of *Picea* in northern Fennoscandia (Finland and Sweden). It is also reported from wood of *Pinus* in Russia (Karelia) as well as from western North America (Oregon) and northern Canada (Fort Enterprise) (Baloch et al. 2013, Sherwood-Pike 1987). It seems to be a slightly northern species that is probably overlooked. It may be a circumboreal species and it should be searched for in pine dominated forests in northern boreal areas and at high altitudes elsewhere.

**Specimen examined**

Nord-Trøndelag: Verdal, Fjellmannmyra – Vargdalsfloa nature reserve,
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REFERENCES

Figure 4. Habitat for the first sample of Coccomycetella richardsonii in Norway. Photo: H. Holien.