

Multiclavula R. Petersen
[BASIDIOMYCOTINA: CLAVARIACEAE]

After Petersen, 1967

Rev. 5/94

Thallus of the "Botrydina" type [see description under Omphalina], yet often producing slimy masses. Fruiting bodies negatively geotropic, clublike, simple or with a tooth, or rarely forked, to 4 cm tall and to 2 mm thick, whitish, pinkish, yellowishochre or orange, when dry pale brownish; tough when wet, brittle when dry. Contextual hyphae parallel, tightly packed towards base of fruiting body, loosely arranged towards apex, thin or very slightly thickwalled, branched, anastomosing, with or without clamp connections, occasionally adglutinated, little inflated. Subhymenial hyphae parallel with contextual hyphae, thinwalled, relatively straight, producing basidia as side branches; basidia short, \pm stout, weakly sterigmate. Basidiospores ovoid or ellipsoid to elongateovoid or elongateellipsoid, thinwalled, aguttulate to multiguttulate or granular, smooth, white in prints. Photobiont green (Coccomyxa) or bluegreen, absent from basidiocarp. On soil, rotting wood, or soft sandstone. In cool, moist places. [Mostly?] temperate to boreal.

A basidiomycete genus, similar to Clavaria ("coral" or "club" fungi), growing on algae, and at most weakly lichenized at the base, without algae in the basidiocarps.

1. Fruiting bodies lignicolous, white or whitish, simple;
basidia 4spored2

1. Fruiting bodies terricolous (or on sandstone), pigmented.
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2. Fruiting bodies white to grayish or tannish, usually simple;
spores $4.57.7 \times 1.83.2$ μm . Fruiting bodies simple, to 2 cm tall, waxy tough to often slimy, white to translucent, creamish, darkening to gray or pale tan with age, often with a pure white apex on drying. Contextual hyphae generally parallel but also interwoven, thin to slightly thickwalled, slightly to heavily agglutinated, bearing clamp connections throughout, cells long, to 200 μm , branches and anastomose abundant. Subhymenial hyphae thinwalled, tortuous, clamped, parallel to contextual hyphae; producing basidia as side branches; cells to 25×1.53 μm .

Basidia short and narrow (1525 x 46 um) with a small, basal clamp connection, 46sterigmate; sterigmata to 4 um long, spindly, slightly incurved, easily collapsed. No differentiated sterile elements in hymenium. Spores ovoid to ellipsoid, smooth, thinwalled, aguttulate to 12guttulate. On rotting wood in litter on forest floor in humid sites.M. mucida (Fr.) R.

Petersen2. **Fruiting bodies white to pale yellow;** sterigmata supernumerary; spores 57.5 x 2.13.8 um.M. coronilla (G. W. Martin) R. Petersen

3. Basidiocarps to 14 x 2.5 mm, simple, subclavate to cylindrical, bluntly rounded apically, at times minutely roughened, ivory, fleshcolored to pale orange; stipe to 6 x 1.5 mm, pale yellow=orange; flesh solid, white. Basidiospores 6.18.3 x 2.93.6 um. On peaty soil over acid rocks in damp gullies. Eastern N. America. M. vernalis (Schwein) R. Petersen
3. Not as above. 4

4. **Sterigmata commonly supernumerary; fruiting body whitish, pinkish or ochraceous.** 5

4. **Sterigmata strictly four or rarely less; fruiting bodies tan or pale to bright orange.** 6

5. **Fruiting bodies simple to once branched, white, becoming pale yellow in age; spores 57.5 x 2.13.8 um.** (M. coronilla)

5. **Fruiting bodies straw to pinkish ochre, often lacerate or lobed; spores 5.68.2 x 2.13.5 um.** Fruiting bodies simple, lobed or primordially branched to sublacerate, 12.5 cm tall, often subspathulate or laterally compressed at least towards base, apex whitish, noticeable on drying. Contextual hyphae somewhat inflated, 3.51.5 um thick, thin to thickwalled, hyaline, loosely arranged and interwoven in apical parts, tightly packed and parallel towards base, bearing very small and inconspicuous clamp connections throughout, walls almost dry to heavily gelatinising. Subhymenial hyphae narrow, 1.53.5 um thick, hyaline, thinwalled, clamped. Basidia short, 1530 x 3.25 um, basally clamped; subglobose when young, cylindrical to subclavate with age, 456sterigmate, sterigmata short, thin, easily collapsed; hymenium thickening by branching and basidium production from basal basidial clamp connections. Spores smooth, thinwalled, elongateovoid to cylindrical, sometimes curved, weakly laterally apiculate, aguttulate. On rotting wood in litter on forest floor in humid sites.....M. corynoides (Peck) R. Petersen

6. **Fruiting bodies tan, branched; spores 7.59.0 x 2.53.5 um.**

.....M. sharpii R. Petersen
6. Fruiting bodies pale cream to watery orange, clavate to lobed; spores 612 x 2.53.5 um; contextual hyphae not agglutinated. M. clava

Literature

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