

Omphalina Quleit
(BASIDIOMYCOTINA: AGARICALES)
(Only the Lichenized Species Treated)

After Watling, 1981 and Orange & Watling, 1992

Rev. 5/94

Thallus persistent, either "Botrydinatype" (made up of closely crowded, dark green spherical granules 0.10.2 mm diam., which in turn consist of a hyphal envelope and a central algal group penetrated by hyphae and surrounded by a pseudoparenchymatous hyphal layer), or "Coriscumtype" (shelllike squamuloseminutely foliose, the young squamules \pm circular, becoming lobed, lobes 0.92.0 mm wide, rather thin, pale green, becoming grayish in the herbarium, closely attached to the substratum by pale hyphae, the margin raised and inrolled, pale, composed of clusters of algae enveloped by hyphae, bounded by an upper and lower cortex), or absent (when lichenicolous). Photobiont Coccomyxa, absent in lichenicolous species.

Basidiocarps agaricoid ("mushrooms"), usually without algae (but reported from the stipe tissue of one species), shortlived, ca. 12 cm high; Stem central, slender, without a veil. Caps small, convex to flat, often usually umbilicate to funnelshaped, at best at first vaulted, thinfleshed, with watersoaked appearance when wet, often translucentstriate, mostly \pm smooth, dull or brightly colored; cuticle little differentiated, of \pm radially arranged, filamentous hyphae; hyphae with pigment membranal, encrusting or intercellular, sometimes also vacuolar; clamp connections present or absent. Lamellae (gills) weakly to strongly descending (shortly to broadly decurrent), sometimes thick and distant; cystidia absent, but gill edge sometimes with sterile cells; gill trama weakly to strongly irregular. Basidia 24spored; basidiospores colorless, ovoid to narrowellipsoid, almondshaped, dropshaped, or almost triangular in side view, smooth, thinwalled, "not I" (a strange way of putting it; presumably it means I+ bluish); spore print white or whitish, rarely rose.

No substances. On acid peat and raw humus soils as well as on plant remains or strongly decomposed wood, or lichenicolous, or on Sphagnum, in cooler regions.

The lichenized species have been variously placed in the genera Botrydina, Coriscum, Phytoconis, and Gerronema, but the genus Omphalina has been proposed for conservation.

As with other fleshy fungi, careful notes on the color of the fresh fruit body and on the size of the spores (obtained from a spore print) should be made.

A basidiomycete genus, at most rather weakly lichenized at base, without algae in the basidiocarps. In mushroom books it is usually called Omphalina [which has been proposed for conservation over Phytoctonis, a name applied only to thelichenized species; various other members of Omphalina are nonlichenized]; in lichen books it has also been called Botrydina or Coriscum. Sterile specimens of the Botrydina type species are difficult to distinguish from each other.

1. **Thallus [at base of fruiting bodies] "Coriscum" type, pale greenbrown or browngray when dry, bluegreen when wet, composed of rounded, imbricate or scattered squamules 23 mm diam., with narrow, raised, often paler margins and smooth undersides. Cap and gills cream to buff; stem pale lilaceous [in Britain; not in N. America], soon becoming creamy although retaining pink flush at apex; spores 8.510 x 4.55 um. On damp, peaty soil, less often mosses, decaying vegetation and rotting wood, in partially shaded sites, Arctic, southeast to New York. [Syn.: Coriscum viride, Phytoctonis viridis, Omphalina luteolilacina].**
O. hudsoniana (Jenn.) Bigelow

1. **Thallus [at base of fruiting bodies] "Botrydina" type, greenbrown to black when dry, dark green when wet, composed of gelatinous globules 0.10.3 mm diam. when dry, ca. 1 mm diam. when wet; each globules composed of clusters of elongate algae (Coccomyxa) surrounded and partly penetrated by a closely appressed sheath of fungal hyphae. Stipe lacking lilaceous or pink coloration. On moist peat and rotting wood in heathy areas.2**

2. **Entire fruit body bright lemonchrome yellow. Hyphae amongst granules of thallus (2.5)34(6) um diam., the walls mostly to 11.5 um or more thick; cortical cells of granules with thickened walls. Cap rarely above 10 mm broad and stem often short; gills thick, often contorted. Spores 6.59.5 x 3.54.5 um. On peaty soil. [Syn.: Botrydina luteovitellina, Phytoctonis luteovitellina]. O. luteovitellina (Pilt & Nannf.) M. Lange**

2. **Fruit body cream, buff, fuscous brown, clay colored or gray, never bright yellow. Hyphae amongst granules of thallus narrower (23 um), or if wide then walls 0.51 um thick and cortical cells with + unthickened walls.3**

3. Cap sepia to gray or graybrown. Hyphae of thallus 23 um diam.; walls thin. Stems pubescent, concolorous or paler; gills white, contrasting markedly with cap and stem. Spores 78 x 67 um; basidia 2spored. On soil. [Syn.: Botrydina velutina, Phytoctonis velutina]. O. velutina (Qulet) Qulet

3. Cap yellowish brown, often with reddish brown center and striae. Hyphae of thallus (2.5)34(6) um diam.; walls 0.51 um thick; cortical cells of granules with ± unthickened walls. Cap smooth. Stem yellowish brown except for purplenate or datebrown apex; gills pale colored. Spores 78 x 67 um; basidia 4spored; lacking clamp connections. On soil, rotting wood and tree trunks, especially in humid habitats, less commonly on Sphagnum. Grassland, heath, woodlands. [Syn.: Botrydina vulgaris, B. botryoides, Phytoctonis ericetorum] O.ericetorum (Fr.) M. Lange ex H. Bigelow

Literature

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