The genus *Coprinellus* (Basidiomycota; Agaricales) in Pakistan with the description of four new species

Shah Hussain¹, Muhammad Usman², Najam-ul-Sehar Afshan³, Habib Ahmad⁴, Junaid Khan¹, Abdul Nasir Khalid²

1 Centre for Plant Sciences and Biodiversity, University of Swat, Swat, Pakistan 2 Department of Botany, University of the Punjab, Lahore 54590, Pakistan 3 Centre for Undergraduate Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore 54590, Pakistan 4 Islamia College Peshawar, Pakistan

Corresponding author: Shah Hussain (shahpk85@gmail.com)

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Abstract

Mushrooms with a thin-fleshed pileus that becomes plicate on opening, deliquescent lamellae and dark brown to blackish basidiospores are commonly called coprinoid mushrooms. The genus *Coprinellus* is one of the important lineages of coprinoid mushroom in the family Psathyrellaceae. Species-level taxonomy in *Coprinellus* is based mainly on the presence or absence and the structure of veil and cystidia on the pileus, of cystidia on the lamellae and on basidiospore morphology. In this study, four new species of *Coprinellus* (*Co. campanulatus*, *Co. disseminatus-similis*, *Co. pakistanicus* and *Co. tenuis*) are described from Pakistan. Species descriptions are based on morphological and molecular data. Phylogenetic analyses based on nuc rDNA ITS region show that the new species *Co. campanulatus* and *Co. disseminatus-similis* are clustered in a clade including members of section *Micacei*; *Co. tenuis* falls in a clade with members of section *Domestici*; and *Co. pakistanicus* recovered in a separate clade adjacent to other recently described clades of genus *Coprinellus*. Morpho-anatomical descriptions of the new species and comparison with closely allied taxa are provided. With this study, the number of known species of *Coprinellus* in Pakistan has reached eight.

Keywords

*Coprinellus* section *Domestici*, *Coprinellus* sect. *Micacei*, coprinoid fungi, taxonomy
Introduction

Coprinoid fungi form an important group of macrofungi and are striking in the field because of their deliquescent lamellae. Coprinoid mushrooms have generally a thin-fleshed pileus that becomes plicate on opening with deliquescent lamellae and dark brown to blackish basidiospores with germ-pore (Schafer 2010). The evolutionary lineages of coprinoid taxa are set amongst those that are not, or not fully coprinoid. Fully coprinoid genera include: *Coprinus* Pers. in Agaricaceae; *Coprinellus* P. Karst., *Coprinopsis* P. Karst. and *Parasola* Redhead, Vilgalys & Hopple in Psathyrellaceae. Certain species of *Leucocoprinus* Pat. (*L. birnbaumii*, *L. brebissonii*, *L. fragilissimus*) in Agaricaceae have a coprinoid combination of characters (Nagy 2011). Within the Bolbitiaceae, coprinoid taxa include: species of *Conocybe* Fayod belonging to section *Candidae* Watling, few *Bolbitius* Fr. species (*B. coprophilus*, *B. elegans*, *B. lacteus*, *B. reticulatus*, *B. subvolvatus*, *B. titubans*) and two species of *Galerella* Earle (*G. floriformis*, *G. nigeriensis*). Nevertheless, taken together, at least eight independent lineages with coprinoid fruiting bodies have hitherto been identified in the Psathyrellaceae (3), Bolbitiaceae (3) and Agaricaceae (2) (Matheny et al. 2006, Nagy 2011, Nagy et al. 2011, Tóth et al. 2013).

The genus *Coprinellus*, with approximately 80 described species, represents an independent lineage in Psathyrellaceae (Redhead et al. 2001, Walther et al. 2005, Vašutová et al. 2008, Padamsee et al. 2008, Nagy et al. 2011, 2012, 2013, Örstadius et al. 2015). These mushrooms are common saprotrophs of, for example, wood chip, leaf-litter and herbivore dung (Schafer 2010). Species of this genus are divided into three sections on the basis of veil anatomy and the presence or absence of cap pileocystidia. Section *Domestici* (Singer) D.J. Schaf. has a veil on the pileus in the form of floccose scales, consisting of chains of fusiform or subglobose cells, often with encrusted walls. In *Micacei* (Fr.) D.J. Schaf., veil remnants are present in the form of scattered, granulose flocks, often disappearing and consisting of globose cells arising from a matrix of narrow branched hyphae. In *Setulosi* (J.Lange) D.J. Schaf., the veil may be present or absent, but the pileus and stipe are covered with thin-walled pileocystidia and caulocystidia, respectively (Schafer 2010). However, Nagy et al. (2012) showed that these sections were not entirely consistent with the molecular phylogeny, in particular because clades corresponding to sections *Micacei* and *Domestici* each included some setulose species.

Previously, only 18 species of coprinoid mushrooms have been reported from Pakistan (Ahmad 1980, Hussain et al. 2016, 2017, 2018). These include two species of *Coprinus* (*C. comatus* (O.F. Müll.) Pers., *C. hookeri* Berk.); four of *Coprinellus* (*Co. disseminatus* (Pers.) J.E. Lange, *Co. marculentus* (Britzelm.) Redhead, Vilgalys & Moncalvo, *Co. micaceus* (Bull.) Vilgalys, Hopple & Jacq. Johnson, *Co. radians* (Desm.) Vilgalys, Hopple & Jacq. Johnson); five of *Coprinopsis* (*Cop. atramentaria* (Bull.) Redhead, Vilgalys & Moncalvo, *Cop. jonesii* (Peck) Redhead, Vilgalys & Moncalvo, *Cop. lagopus* (Fr.) Redhead, Vilgalys & Moncalvo, *Cop. macropus* (Berk. & Broome) Redhead, Vilgalys & Moncalvo, *Cop. patouillardii* (Quél.) G. Moreno); and seven of *Parasola* (*P. auricoma* (Pat.) Redhead, Vilgalys & Hopple, *P. glabra* Hussain, Afshan, Ahmad
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& Khalid, *P. lilatincta* (Bender & Uljé) Redhead, Vilgalys & Hopple, *P. malakandensis* Hussain, Afshan & Ahmad, *P. plicatilis* (Curtis) Redhead, Vilgalys & Hopple, *P. pseudodolactea* Sadiqullah, Hussain & Khalid, *P. setulosa* (Berk. & Broome) Redhead, Vilgalys & Hopple).

During explorations of basidiomycetous fungi in Pakistan in 2014–2017, some interesting collections of *Coprinellus* were encountered. Upon further examination, it was discovered that these collections represent four new species. The current report provides species descriptions based on morphological characters and molecular phylogenetic analyses of nuc rDNA internal transcribed spacers (ITS1-5.8S-ITS2 = ITS). With this study, the number of known species in *Coprinellus* in Pakistan increases to eight.

**Materials and methods**

**Sampling and morphology**

Samples were collected in August–September 2014–2017, in the Malakand district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Pabbi district of Punjab, Pakistan. Specimens were photographed, tagged and morphological features including size, shape and colour of basidiomata were noted. For colour designations, the Munsell (1975) colour system was followed. For anatomical study, slides were prepared in 5% aqueous KOH (w/v). Anatomical features, including size and shape of basidiospores, basidia, cheilocystidia, pileipellis and position of germ-pore in basidiospores, were studied using a light microscope (MX4300H, Meiji Techo Co., Ltd., Japan). Data of morpho-anatomical features were recorded from at least 20 measurements. In case of basidiospores, at least 50 spores were measured in face view and side view at a magnification of 1000× and measurements were rounded to the nearest 0.5 µm. Basidiospore measurements are presented as: length range × breadth range × width range. Q values were calculated as: \(Q_1 = \frac{\text{length}}{\text{breadth}}\) and \(Q_2 = \frac{\text{length}}{\text{width}}\) (Nagy et al. 2010). Specimens studied during this work are deposited in the Herbarium of University of the Punjab, Lahore (LAH) and the Herbarium of University of Swat, Swat, Pakistan (SWAT).

**DNA extraction, PCR amplification and sequencing**

For DNA extraction, we used the DNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen, Redwood City, California, USA). We amplified nuc rDNA internal transcribed spacer region (ITS) using the primer combination ITS1F/ITS4 (White et al. 1990). The polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was performed in a 25 µl reaction volume: containing 2.5 µl 10× Econo Taq Buffer (Lucigen, Middleton, Wisconsin, USA), 0.5 µl dNTPs, 1.25 µl of each primer (10 µM/µl), 0.125 µl of Econo Taq DNA Polymerase (Lucigen), 14.375 µl H₂O and 5 µl DNA template. PCR amplification were performed with 4 min initial denaturation at 95°C, followed by 34 cycles of 50 s at 94°C, 40 s at 54°C, 50 s at 72°C
Figure 1. Basidiomata of species of *Coprinellus*. A–B *Coprinellus disseminates-similis* (holotype SHCr3W) C–D *Coprinellus tenuis* (holotype SHP10) E *Coprinellus campanulatus* (holotype SH144). The arrow shows remnants of membranous annulus. Scale bars: 20 mm.
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and a final extension of 7 min at 72°C followed the last cycle. The PCR products were purified using a QIAquick PCR purification kit (Qiagen Inc., Valencia, California, USA). Sequencing was performed using a Bigdye terminator cycle sequencing kit (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, California, USA). Sequencing reactions were purified using Pellet Paint (Novagen, Madison, Wisconsin, USA) and were run on an Applied Biosystems 377 XL automated DNA sequencer. Sequence chromatograms were compiled with Sequencher 4.1 software (GeneCodes Corporation, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA). Sequences generated for this study are deposited in GenBank (MH366735–MH366737, MH753663–MH753670).

**Alignment and phylogenetic analyses**

Consensus sequences were generated from both forward and reverse primer reads in BioEdit sequence alignment editor version 7.2.5 (Hall 1999) and then homology searches were performed at the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) Web site using BLAST. These BLAST results, along with the sequences recently employed in the phylogeny of *Coprinellus* (Nagy et al. 2012), were used in the phylogenetic analyses. DNA sequences were aligned in Clustal X 2.1 (Larkin et al. 2007). *Psathyrella candolleana* (Fr.) Maire was used as outgroup. Sequence alignment was deposited in TreeBase (http://purl.org/phylo/treebase/phylows/study/TB2:S23199).

Phylogenetic inference was conducted using Bayesian and Maximum Likelihood (ML) methods. For Bayesian inference, we used BEAST 1.6.2 (Drummond and Rambaut 2007) with a Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) coalescent approach. For tree prior, a Yule-type speciation model (Gernhard 2008) was used in all simulations.
and the starting tree was randomly generated. Four independent runs were undertaken. Chain length was 20 million generations, with a sampling frequency of 1000. Tracer 1.6 (Rambaut et al. 2014) was used to check the effective sample size (ESS) and burn-in values were adjusted to achieve an overall ESS of ≥200. A Maximum Clade Credibility Tree (MCCT) with 20% burn-in was generated using TreeAnnotator 1.6.2 (Drummond and Rambaut 2007). Maximum Likelihood analyses were run in RAXML-VI-HPC (Stamatakis 2006) under the GTRCAT model. Branch support was calculated by 1000 bootstrap replicates. Nodes were considered strongly supported when the maximum likelihood bootstrap (MLB) values were ≥ 70% and Bayesian posterior probability (BPP) values were ≥ 0.95.

Results

Phylogenetic analyses

The ITS dataset comprises 97 sequences and the resulting alignment was 708 bp in length. Phylogenetic trees reconstructed using both Bayesian and ML methods were mostly congruent with each other. Taxa of Coprinellus were recovered in seven clades (Figure 3). Clades I–IV consisted of species of section Setulosi, three corresponding to clades described in Nagy et al. (2012). Clade I, corresponding to core Setulosi clade, was recovered with strong statistical support (BPP/ML 1/98). Clade II corresponded to Sabulicola clade with a single species Co. sabulicola L. Nagy, Házi, Papp & Vágvölgyi with strong statistical support (1/100). Clade III was the new species Coprinellus paksistanicus, forming an independent lineage (1/100). Clade IV corresponded to Euryseudoroid clade with strong support (1/100). Clade V consisted of species of the Micacei clade of Nagy et al. (2012), including Co. disseminatus (morphologically placed in section Setulosi) along with species of morphological section Micacei and recovered with strong statistical support (1/99). The two new species Coprinellus campanulatus and Co. disseminatus-similis fall in this clade. Coprinellus campanulatus formed a sister clade (weak statistical support) with Co. micaceus (Bull.) Vilgalys, Hopple & Jacq. Johnson and Co. truncorum (Scop.) Redhead, Vilgalys & Moncalvo and would be placed in morphological section Micacei. Coprinellus disseminatus-similis (1/100) formed a sister clade with Co. curtus (Kalchbr.) Vilgalys, Hopple & Jacq. Johnson.

Figure 3. Phylogenetic inference of Coprinellus species inferred from 97 ITS sequences, with species names following GenBank accessions, specimen voucher numbers and country. Values above branch node represent Bayesian posterior probabilities (BPP) and maximum likelihood bootstrap (MLP), the new species are represented with bold fonts and T represents the holotype collection.
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Clade I

- *Co. pellucidus* JN159522 NL4218 Hungary
- *Co. paleldus* JN159521 NL1556 Hungary
- *Co. pallidus* HQ846989 NL0625 Hungary
- *Co. callinus* FN396105 NL1931 Hungary
  - *Co. congregatus* JN159554 NL2138 Hungary
  - *Co. congregatus* FM878013 NL0588 Sweden
  - *Co. congregatus* JN159550 NL1221 Hungary
  - *Co. congregatus* JN159552 NL1433 Hungary
- *Co. hiascens* FM878018 NL2536 Norway
- *Co. hiascens* JN159526 NL2598 Hungary
- *Co. hiascens* GU227720 NL1350 Hungary
- *Co. hiascens* JN159525 NL1349 Hungary
  - *Co. cinereopallidus* HQ846977 NL1018 Hungary
  - *Co. sclerocystidiosus* JN159538 NL1022 Hungary
  - *Co. pennulae* HQ846984 NL0162 Hungary
- *Co. micaceus* JN159565 NL2744 Hungary
- *Co. impatiens* FM163177 NL1164 Hungary
- *Co. fuscocystidiatus* HQ846977 NL2720 Norway
- *Co. fuscocystidiatus* JN159514 NL3622 Sweden

Clade II

- *Co. pakistanicus* sp. nov. MU37 Pak
- *Co. pakistanicus* sp. nov. MU39 Pak
- *Co. pakistanicus* sp. nov. MU07 Pak
  - *Co. sclerocystidiosus* JN159539 NL0797 Hungary
  - *Co. sclerocystidiosus* JN159538 NL1022 Hungary
  - *Co. sclerocystidiosus* JN159537 NL1444 Hungary
  - *Co. sclerocystidiosus* HQ846991 NL1018 Hungary
  - *Co. aff. eurysporus* HQ846995 Ulje1191 Netherlands
  - *Co. eurysporus* JN159534 Arnold4845 Netherlands
  - *Co. eurysporus* HQ846992 NL1761 Hungary
  - *Co. aff. eurysporus* JN159540 NL3418 Hungary
  - *Co. angeatus* JN159535 NL0906 Hungary
  - *Co. angeatus* JN159536 Arnold99-22 Netherlands
  - *Co. angeatus* HQ846994 NL1934 Hungary
  - *Co. subimpatiens* JN159542 NL0162 Hungary
  - *Co. subimpatiens* HQ846993 ToK 27/8-08 Hungary

Clade III

- *Co. sallatius* JN159509 NL1237 Hungary
- *Co. sallatius* FN396101 NL1495 Hungary
- *Co. uljei* JN159513 NL2492 Sweden
- *Co. uljei* JN159515 NL3985 Slovakia
- *Co. uljei* HQ846982 NL0157 Sweden
- *Co. plagioporus* HQ846981 NL1365 Hungary
- *Co. plagioporus* JN159512 NL1086 Hungary
- *Co. radicellus* GU227718 NL0957 Norway
- *Co. radicellus* GU227717 NL2121 Sweden
- *Co. radicellus* GU227716 NL0594 Sweden
- *Co. radicellus* GU227719 NL3168 Sweden
- *Co. plagioporus* JN159512 NL1086 Hungary

Clade IV

- *Co. bisporiger* HQ846974 WU7403 Hungary
- *Co. bisporiger* JN159520 Daams71-98 Hungary
- *Co. impatiens* JN159511 NL0568 Hungary
- *Co. impatiens* FM163177 NL1164 Hungary
- *Co. fuscocystidiatus* HQ846977 NL2720 Norway
- *Co. fuscocystidiatus* JN159514 NL3622 Sweden
- *Co. pakistanicus* sp. nov. MU37 Pak
- *Co. pakistanicus* sp. nov. MU39 Pak
- *Co. pakistanicus* sp. nov. MU07 Pak
- *Co. pakistanicus* sp. nov. MU37 Pak
- *Co. pakistanicus* sp. nov. MU39 Pak
- *Co. pakistanicus* sp. nov. MU07 Pak
Taxonomy

**Coprinellus campanulatus** Hussain & Ahmad, sp. nov.

MycoBank: MB825477

Figures 1E and 4

**Diagnosis.** The diagnostic features of *Coprinellus campanulatus* are: campanulate pileus with greyish-olive tinge, surface with glistening clusters of micaceous veil at maturity, dark yellowish-brown centre, basidiospores 8.0–10.5 × 5.5–6.5 × 4.5–5.5 μm, spores mitriform in face view and cylindrical to amygdaliform in side view.
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**Type.** PAKISTAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Qaldara, Dargai, Malakand, 480 m alt., gregarious on wood chip, 14 Aug 2014, S. Hussain, SH144 (LAH-SH-144, holotype); GenBank accession ITS: MH753667.

**Etymology.** The epithet “*campanulatus*” (Latin) refers to the campanulate shape of the pileus of this species.

**Macroscopic characters.** Pileus at young stage 3–8 × 3–7 mm, ovoid to parabolic, light orange-yellow (7.5YR 9/8) to pale orange-yellow (7.5YR 9/4), surface pruinose; at mature stage 25–40 × 10–15 mm, pulvinate to campanulate, light greyish-olive (10Y 5/2) to greyish-olive (5Y 3/2), centre slightly campanulate, strong yellowish-brown (10YR 4/8) to dark yellowish-brown (10YR 1/2); surface finely furfuraceous to granulose, with clusters of micaceous-glistening veil, bright white, plicate from near centre to margin; context membranous to submembranous. Lamellae adnexed, narrow, with fimbriate edge, crowded with 1–4 series of lamellulae, pale orange-yellow (7.5YR 9/4) at young stage, dark yellowish-brown at maturity (10YR 2/2). Stipe 70–100 × 3–7 mm, equal, white, surface smooth, context hollow. Annulus absent with a membranous layer at the base. Odour pungent. Not tasted.

**Microscopic characters.** Basidiospores (7.0–)8.0–10.5(–11.5) × (5.0–)5.5–6.5(–7.0) × (4.0–)4.5–5.5(–6.0) µm, on average 9.4 × 5.7 × 5.1 µm, Q₁ = 1.6, Q₂ = 1.8, av. Q = 1.7; in face view mitrifrom, triangular to ellipsoid; in side view cylindrical, amygdaliform to ellipsoid; dark brown to blackish in KOH, smooth, thick-walled, with truncate base, apiculus visible, germ-pore 1.5–2.5 µm wide, central, prominent, pale to hyaline. Basidia 19–29 × 7–10 µm, cylindrical, clavate to subclavate, hyaline, 4-spored. Cheilocystidia 36–47 × 35–45 µm, globose to subglobose, hyaline, abundant. Pleurocystidia absent. Pileipellis an epithelium of loosely arranged globose to subglobose or ellipsoid, hyaline to light olive, thin-walled elements, 30–80 × 25–60 µm. Veil composed of globose to subglobose cells, 50–90 µm diam., slightly thick-walled, yellowish-brown in KOH. Caulocystidia absent. Clamp connections rarely present.

**Habitat and distribution.** Gregarious on woody litter under *Morus alba*, so far only known from lowland northern Pakistan.

**Additional specimens examined.** PAKISTAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Malakand, Qaldara, on woody pasture, 14 August 2014, S. Hussain, SH144 (SWAT SHP144).

**Comments.** The main distinguishing features of *Coprinellus campanulatus* are: campanulate pileus with greyish-olive tinge, dark yellowish-brown centre, veil on pileus in the form of micaceous-glistening clusters which are composed of globose to subglobose cells and basidiospores 8.0–10.5 × 5.5–6.5 × 4.5–5.5 µm, spores mitriform in face view and cylindrical to amygdaliform in side view. Based on veil anatomy, *Co. campanulatus* belongs in sect. *Micacei*. *Coprinellus micaceus* and *Co. truncorum* are most closely related to *Co. campanulatus* amongst the species sampled for our phylogenetic analyses. The new species *Co. campanulatus* with pulvinate to campanulate pileus can be differentiated from *Co. micaceus* and *Co. truncorum*, which have broadly convex pilei. At maturity, the pileus is light brown in *Co. micaceus* and *Co. truncorum* when compared to *Co. campanulatus* with greyish-olive pileus. On basis of spore morphology, *Co. campanulatus* can be differentiated from *Co. micaceus*. Basidiospores in...
Figure 4. Line drawing of anatomical characters of *Coprinellus campanulatus* A Basidiospores B Basidia C Cheilocystidia D Pileipellis E Veil elements. Scale bars: 10 µm (A), 20 µm (B–E).

*Co. micaceus* are slightly smaller (6.5–10.0 × 4.5–7 µm), lacrimiform to submitriform or mitriform in face view, conical towards base (Keirle et al. 2004, Uljé 2005). In *Co. micaceus*, voluminous, broadly clavate, (sub)globose to ellipsoid pleurocystidia up to 150 × 70 µm are present, in *Co. campanulatus* pleurocystidia are absent. Also, in *C. micaceus*, caulocystidia are abundant, in *Co. campanulatus* absent. Spores of *Co. truncorum* are 8.5–9.0 × 5.5–6 µm, ellipsoid in all views, not distinctly lentiform, with very broad central to slightly eccentric germ pore, broadly rounded apex, not truncate, smooth, dark grey to grey brown or black (Keirle et al. 2004, Uljé 2005).
Coprinellus disseminatus-similis Hussain, sp. nov.
MycoBank: MB825478
Figures 1A–B and 5

**Diagnosis.** The most important features of *Co. disseminatus-similis* are: pileus parabolic to campanulate, greyish-brown, with umbonate centre; surface pruinose to pulverulent, with sparse micaceous-glistening veil, bright white, deeply plicate from centre to margin; basidiospores 8.0–9.0 × 5.0–5.5 × 4.5–5.5 µm, in face view ellipsoid to cylindrical or obovoid, in side view ellipsoid to amygdaliform, smooth, thick-walled, with truncate base, germ-pore central, 0.5–1.0 µm wide.

**Type.** PAKISTAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Malakand, Sarogai, 450 m alt., gregarious on wood chips, 23 Sept 2014, S. Hussain, SHCr3w (SWAT-SHCr3w, holotype); GenBank accession ITS: MH753670.

**Etymology.** “Similis” (Latin) meaning like, referring to the similarity of the new species to *Coprinellus disseminatus*.

**Macroscopic characters.** Pileus at young stage cylindrical and closed, 3–5 × 3–7 mm, whitish to light greyish (2.5Y 7/4), surface pruinose, slightly plicate toward margin; at mature stage 15–20 × 20 mm, parabolic to campanulate to umbonate, light greyish-brown (7.5YR 6/2) to greyish-yellowish-brown (7.5YR 6/2); with umbonate centre, in old specimens centre papillate, centre moderate orange (2.5YR 6/8) to brownish-orange (2.5YR 5/8); surface pruinose to pulverulent, with sparse micaceous-glistening veil, bright white, deeply plicate from centre to margin; context membranous. Lamellae sinuate to uncinate, distant with 0–2 lamellulae, initially white, fading with age and dark greyish-brown at maturity. Stipe 20–40 × 1 mm, equal, central, white, surface pruinose to pulverulent with sparse micaceous-glistening veil, context hollow, annulus absent. Odour pungent, not tasted.

**Microscopic characters.** Basidiospores (7.5–)8.0–9.0(–9.5) × (4.5–)5.0–5.5(–6.0) × (4.0–)4.5–5.5(–6.0) µm, on average 8.5 × 5.2 × 4.9 µm, Q₁ = 1.53–1.7, Q₂ = 1.7–1.9, av. Q = 1.6; in face view, ellipsoid to cylindrical or obovoid, in side view, ellipsoid to amygdaliform, dark brown to blackish in KOH, smooth, thick-walled, with truncate base, germ-pore central, 0.5–1.0 µm wide. Basidia 26–30 × 7–10 µm, clavate to cylindrical, 2 to 4-spored, hyaline. Cheilocystidia 70–165 × 11–15 µm, cylindrical, narrowly clavate to narrowly utriform, some with subcapitate apex, abundant, smooth, hyaline. Pleurocystidia absent. Pileipellis a loosely arranged euhymeniderm with narrowly utriform to utriform pileocystidia, 118–165 × 23–28 µm, light-brownish to hyaline, smooth. Clamp connection not observed.

**Habitat and distribution.** Gregarious on leaf litter under *Populus alba* and *Morus alba*, so far only known from lowland northern Pakistan.

**Additional specimens examined.** PAKISTAN. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Malakand, Sarogai, on leaf litter under *Populus alba* and *Morus alba*, 22 Sept 2014, S. Hussain, SH-Cr3-b (SWAT SH-Cr3-b).
Figure 5. Line drawing of anatomical characters of *Coprinellus disseminatus-similis* A Basidiospores B Basidia C Cheilocystidia D Pileipellis with pileocystidia E Veil elements. Scale bars: 10 µm (A), 20 µm (B–E).

Comments. The new species would be placed in sect. *Setulosi* because of its pileocystidia. However, as with *Co. disseminatus*, which it resembles and is close to in the molecular phylogram, *Co. disseminatus-similis* falls in a clade along with members of
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section *Micacei* that lack such pileocystidia, underlining the need to update the formal description of the sections. Both these species share basidiospore morphology. However, they differ on the basis of: (i) pileus shape and colour, (ii) cheilocystidia and (iii) pileocystidia and veil anatomy. In *Co. disseminatus*, initially the pileus is (sub)globose or ovoid, then hemispherical or obtusely conical to convex, rarely flat, the fruit bodies often form in very large groups and are initially very pale, almost white, darkening as the spores mature; cheilocystidia are absent along most of the gill edge; pileocystidia are lageniform with cylindrical neck and rounded, rarely subcapitate, apex and large 50–200 × 15–24 µm; and veil elements are globose to subglobose, generally with golden brown incrustations (Uljé and Bas 1991, Uljé 2005). In *Co. disseminatus-similis*, at young stage, the pileus is cylindrical and closed, parabolic to campanulate to umbo nate at mature stage, with papillate centre in some old specimens; cheilocystidia are large (70–165 × 11–15 µm), narrowly clavate to narrowly utriform, some with subcapitate apex; pileocystidia are narrowly utriform to utriform; and veil elements are globose to subglobose and smooth. Using ML and Bayesian analyses, *Coprinellus verrucisper mus* (Joss. & Enderle) Redhead, Vilgalys & Moncalvo is another species close to *Co. disseminatus-similis*. Spores in *Co. verrucisper mus* are substantially larger (11.0–14.5 × 7.0–9.0 µm), ellipsoid to slightly amygdaliform, chestnut brown, apiculus slight, warty with perisporial sac and central germ pore (Uljé and Bas 1991, Keirle et al. 2004).

*Coprinellus pakistani cus* Usman & Khalid, sp. nov.

MycoBank: MB825483

Figures 2 and 6

**Diagnosis.** The distinguishing features of *Coprinellus pakistani cus* are: light yellowish-green to greyish-yellow pileus, surface smooth with sub-membranous context, basidia spores 8.5–11.5 × 6.5–8.0 × 5.5–6.5 µm, on average 10 × 7.4 × 6.2 µm, in face view broadly ellipsoid, obovoid to phaseoliform, in side view ovoid, ellipsoid to obovoid, base not truncate, apiculus visible in side view, germ-pore central.

**Type.** PAKISTAN: Punjab, Pabbi Forest Park, 286 m alt., 11 Aug 2016, M. Usman and Abdul N. Khalid, MU37 (Holotype LAH35323); GenBank accession ITS: MH366736.

**Etymology.** The specific epithet “pakistani cus” refers to the holotype locality of this species.

**Macroscopic characters.** Pileus 25–35 mm diam, convex to plan, with depressed centre, light yellow green (2.5GY 8/6) to greyish-greenish-yellow (7.5Y 7/4); surface smooth with sparsely pulverulent to granulose, deeply plicate from centre towards margin; centre depressed to slightly papillate, orange yellow (7.5YR 6/8); context sub-membranous, light greyish (10Y 5/2). Lamellae free, crowded, regular, dark brown to blackish, with 0–2 series of lamellulae. Stipe 27–50 × 1 mm, central, hollow, smooth, white, with slightly bulbous base. Annulus and volva absent. Odour and taste not recorded.

**Microscopic characters.** Basidiospores (7–)8.5–11.5(–12) × (6.0–)6.5–8.0(–8.5) × (–5.0)5.5–6.5(–7.0) µm, on average 10 × 7.4 × 6.2 µm, $Q_1 = 1.4$, $Q_2 = 1.6$, av. $Q =$
Figure 6. Line drawing of anatomical characters of *Coprinellus pakistanicus*. A Basidiospores B Basidia C Pileocystidia D Cheilocystidia E Pileal hyphae F Veil elements. Scale bars: 10 µm (A), 20 µm (B–F).

1.3; in face view, broadly ellipsoid, ovoid to phaseoliform, in side view, ovoid, ellipsoid to ovoid, base not truncate, apiculus slightly visible, germ-pore central, smooth, slightly thin-walled, dark brown to blackish in KOH. Basidia 13.5–32 × 8.5–12 µm, clavate to narrowly clavate, hyaline, smooth, 2- to 4-spored, sterigmata up to 4 µm in length. Cheilocystidia 42–75 × 14–25 µm, cylindrical to lageniform, hyaline with crystals usually at the apex of cystidium. Pleurocystidia absent. Pileipellis irregular epithelium, 3.5–7.5 µm diam., pale to hyaline in KOH. Pileocystidia 30–90 × 9–24
µm, lageniform to cylindrical with tapering neck and obtuse apex, pale to hyaline in KOH. Veil rounded to globose cells, 15–25 µm diam., slightly thick-walled, yellowish in KOH. Clamp connection present.

**Habitat and distribution.** Scattered on moist soil, under trees of *Acacia nilotica* and *A. modesta*, so far only known from lowland northern Pakistan.

**Additional specimens examined.** PAKISTAN. Punjab: Pabbi Forest Park, 286 m alt., 20 Aug 2016 & 2017, M. Usman, Abdul N. Khalid and A. Hameed, MU07, MU39 (LAH35324 and LAH35325).

**Comments.** In phylogenetic analyses, *Coprinellus pakistanicus* forms Clade III, adjacent to the *Sabulicola* and *Eurysporoid* clades of Nagy et al. (2012) and morphologically would be placed in sect. *Setulosi*. The new species is compared with the following species of sect. *Setulosi*: *Co. bisporus* (J.E. Lange) Vilgalys, Hopple & Jacq. Johnson, *Co. cinereopallidus* L. Nagy, Házi, Papp & Vágvölgyi, *Co. congregatus* (Bull.) P. Karst., *Co. pellucidus* (P. Karst.) Redhead, Vilgalys & Moncalvo, *Co. radicellus* Házi, L. Nagy, Papp & Vágvölgyi and *Co. sabulicola* L. Nagy, Házi, Papp & Vágvölgyi.

In *Co. bisporus*, the pileus is small, up to 20 mm diam., ochre or pale brown; with dark red-brown basidiospores; cheilocystidia subglobose, ovoid, ellipsoid to broadly utriform and smaller in size (24–40 × 16–23 µm) when compared to *Co. pakistanicus* (Prydiuk 2010). In *Co. cinereopallidus*, basidiospores are larger 12.1 × 6.5 µm, ellipsoid to subamylgdaloid, not lentiform (Nagy et al. 2012). Similarly, *Co. congregatus* with pileus up to 20 mm in diam., cream-coloured, at centre ochre-brown to light brown, cheilocystidia subglobose, ovoid to ellipsoid, sometimes utriform, 22–50 × 15–36 µm in size (Prydiuk 2010). *Coprinellus pellucidus* with substantially small pileus (7 mm diam.), basidiospores 9.25 × 4.75 µm, elongate-ellipsoid to cylindrical-ellipsoid, with subglobose cheilocystidia, 20–25 × 14–22 µm (Prydiuk 2010). Pileus in *Co. radicellus* up to 10 mm diam., cream coloured to dark melleous-brown, expanding to convex applanate with uprolled margin, basidiospores on average 9.48 × 4.91 µm, reddish-brown, ellipsoid to subcylindrical, with globose to subglobose or clavate cheilocystidia, 9–20 × 8–14 µm in size (Házi et al. 2011). *Co. sabulicola* has concave, warm reddish-brown pileus, basidiospores on average 17.3 × 10.9 µm, cheilocystidia 17–32 × 12.5–27 µm, globose to vesiculose or broadly ellipsoid (Nagy et al. 2012).

*Coprinellus tenuis* Hussain, sp. nov.
MycoBank: MB825479
Figures 1C–D and 7

**Diagnosis.** The new species *Coprinellus tenuis* can be recognised by its thin and membranous pileus, surface glabrous and furred, deeply plicate towards margin; lamellae sinuate to uncinate; basidiospores 10.5–14.5 × 8.0–9.5 × 6.5–8.5 µm, in face view, broadly ellipsoid to ovoid, in side view, slightly pyriform to ellipsoid, usually with truncate base, apiculus mostly not visible, with eccentric germ-pore, 1.5–2 µm wide.
Figure 7. Anatomical features of *Coprinellus tenuis* A Basidiospores B Basidia C Pileocystidia D Caulo-cystidia E Cheilocystidia F Veil cells. Scale bars: 10 µm (A), 20 µm (B–F).

**Type.** PAKISTAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Malakand, Qaldara, 430 m alt., solitary on leaf litter, 7 July 2014, S. Hussain, SHP10 (SWAT-SH-P10, holotype); GenBank accession ITS: MH753663.

**Etymology.** “*tenuis*” (Latin) meaning thin, referring to the membranous pileus of the new species.

**Macroscopic characters.** Pileus 15–20 mm diam, pulvinate to convex to plane, light greyish-brown (7.5YR 5/2) to light brown (5YR 6/4); surface glabrous, furred, deeply plicate from centre towards margin; centre truncately conical, moderate red-
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Dish-orange (10R 5/8) to greyish-reddish-orange (2.5YR 5/6); context membranous. Lamellae sinuate to uncinate, distant, with 0–2 series of lamelullae, light greyish-brown (7.5YR 5/2) to light brown (5YR 6/4), lamellae edge blackish and fimbriate to eroded. Stipe 40–60 × 1 mm, equal, cylindrical, surface scabrous, white, translucent, fragile, context hollow.

**Microscopic characters.** Basidiospores (9.0–)10.5–14.5 (–15.5) × (7.5–)8.0–9.5 (–10.5) × (5.0–)6.5–8.5 (–9.0) µm, on average 13.1 × 9.0 × 7.8 µm; Q₁ = 1.25–1.49, Q₂ = 1.57–1.63, av. Q = 1.45; in face view, broadly ellipsoid to ovoid, in side view, slightly pyriform to ellipsoid, usually with truncate base, apiculus mostly not visible, germ-pore eccentric, 1.5–2 µm wide, wall 1.5 µm thick, dark brown to almost black. Basidia 22–24 × 9–12 µm, clavate, 2- to 4-spored, hyaline in KOH. Cheilocystidia 22–30 × 19–28 µm, rounded to globose, abundant, hyaline. Pleurocystidia absent. Pileocystidia 78–94 × 10–12 µm, lageniform to cylindrical with rounded apex, elongated rod shape neck with rounded enlarged base, hyaline in KOH. Caulocystidia 50–67 × 9–11 µm, narrowly clavate to clavate, with rounded to obtuse apex, cylindrical base. Veil comprised of rounded to subglobose cells, arranged in short chain, thick-walled with encrusted walls, dark brown, with terminal cell 17–23 × 12–15 µm.

**Habitat and distribution.** Scattered on leaf litter under *Acacia modesta*, so far only known from lowland northern Pakistan.

**Additional specimens examined.** PAKISTAN. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Mala-kand, Qaldara, on leaf litter under *Acacia modesta*, 10 July 2014, S. Hussain, SH10 (SWAT SH-10).

**Comments.** *Coprinellus tenuis* with thin membranous pileus, shows similarities with *Co. curtus*. Both these species can be differentiated on (i) pileus morphology (ii) basidiospore shape and (iii) habitat. Pileus is deeply plicate in both these species, in *Co. tenuis* pileus is glabrous and furred; however, there is no furcation in the pileus of *Co. curtus*. Spores in *Co. curtus* are substantially smaller (8.0–10.0 × 5.5–7.0 µm), ellipsoid to ovoid in face view, narrowly ellipsoid or phaseoliform in side view, apiculus often not visible, with a distinct central to slightly eccentric germ-pore, not truncate. Basidiospores in *Co. tenuis* are larger (10.5–14.5 × 8.0–9.5 × 6.5–8.5 µm), in face view broadly ellipsoid to ovoid, in side view slightly pyriform to ellipsoid, usually with truncate base, apiculus mostly not visible, with eccentric germ-pore of 1.5–2 µm diam. *Coprinellus curtus* has a substrate preference and is most commonly collected from herbivores’ dung as opposed to *Co. tenuis* basidioma on leaf litter (Uljé and Bas 1991).

**Discussion**

The genus *Coprinellus* is one of the most species-rich genera in Psathyrellaceae, with approximately 80 described species (Kirk et al. 2008, Nagy et al. 2012, Gomes and Wartchow 2014). Species of *Coprinellus* have been classified in three sections, reflecting earlier sub-sections of *Coprinus* sensu lato, primarily based on veil anatomy and the presence or absence of cap pileocystidia (Schafer 2010). The most recent phylogenetic
study of this genus by Nagy et al. (2012), does not provide evidence for the monophyly of morphologically based sections of previous classifications (Orton and Watling 1979, Uljé 2005, Schafer 2010).

In the phylogeny we present here, based on ITS sequences, the genus is recovered in seven clades (Figure 3). In morphology-based taxonomy, species in section Setulosi have setules on their pilei and the majority of such species recovered as a non-monophyletic lineage consisting of four clades in this study. Clade I, corresponding to core Setulosi clade in the Nagy et al. (2012) phylogeny, is a large group of species with the characteristic setules on the pileus. Clade II corresponds to Sabulicola clade with a single species *Co. sabulicola* L. Nagy, Házi, Papp & Vágvölgyi. This species bears some unique features compared with other *Coprinellus* species; amongst these are relatively large basidiospores (15–22 × 10–13 µm), lack of a pedicel on the cystidia, habitat in dry, sandy sites and short, capitate pileocystidia with incrusted base (Nagy et al. 2012). Clade III represents the new species *Coprinellus pakistanicus*. This species has ellipsoid to phaseoliform basidiospores, cylindrical to lageniform cheilocystidia, pileocystidia lageniform to cylindrical with tapering neck and obtuse apex, veil with rounded to globose cells, slightly thick-walled, clamp connections present amongst most tissues. Clade IV, corresponding to the Eurysporoid clade (fig. 1 of Nagy et al. 2012), was inferred with strong statistical support (1/100) and consisted of some well-studied species, forming a basal group in this phylogeny. Amongst the species, there are *Coprinellus eurysporus* (M. Lange & A.H. Sm.) Redhead, Vilgalys & Moncalvo, *Co. sclerocystidiosus* (M. Lange & A.H. Sm.) Vilgalys, Hopple & Jacq. Johnson, *Co. subimpatiens* (M. Lange & A.H. Sm.) Redhead, Vilgalys & Moncalvo.

Clade V includes species of sect. *Micacei*, along with *Co. disseminatus* and our new species *Co. disseminatus-similis*, reflecting the *Micacei* clade of Nagy et al. 2012. It also includes *Co. verrucispermus* and *Co. deliquescens (=Co. silvaticus)*, which were placed in the Domestici clade in that study, although data would allow a plausible phylogenetic position for those two species in the *Micacei* clade (Nagy et al. 2012, p.256). Taxa in section *Micacei* have a veil in the form of glistening mica-like granules, consisting of thin-walled globose cells in a matrix of narrow branched hyphae. The granules can be easily washed off by rain drops, causing difficulties in differentiation (Schafer 2010). Rich veil coverage on the pileus was suggested as a character linking the non-setulose and setulose species in both the Domestici and Micacei clades, the key feature for the *Micacei* clade being mitriform shaped basidiospores (Nagy et al. 2012).

Clade VI and VII, if taken together, would collectively correspond to the Domestici clade, inferred as a non-monophyletic group in *Coprinellus*. Species in clade VI have a veil consisting of floccose scales, made up of generally thick-walled, yellow-brown chains of inflated, ellipsoid or globose cells (thin-walled and hyaline in *Co. flocculosus*) and correspond to section Domestici. "*Coprinus maydisporus*" in Nagy et al. 2012 ("*Coprinus maydisporus*" in GenBank) appears to refer to collection FVDB1743 and appears to relate to a collection of a provisionally named species "*Coprinus maydisiformis*", close to *Co. xanthothrix*, from Washington State, USA in 1972 (Van de Bogart 1975). Clade VII is entirely comprised of species containing thick-walled, encrusted veil cells as well as pileal setules with capitate or swollen apex
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(*Coprinellus curtus, Co. tenuis*). These differences between the clades found in our study and those in Nagy 2012 might therefore provide DNA phylogenetic support for the morphologically defined section *Domestici*, but still leave the remaining sections in need of updating, clade VII being a separate *Curtus* clade.

In the present study, we demonstrated that low-altitude mountains and grasslands of Pakistan are rich in species of *Coprinellus*. The climatic conditions of these areas of the country are favourable for growth of coprinoid mushrooms. With the description of these four new species, the number of known species of *Coprinellus* from Pakistan increases to eight.

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