Morphological and phylogenetic evidence for recognition of two new species of *Hyphoderma* (Basidiomycota) from southern China, with a key to all Chinese *Hyphoderma*

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Abstract

Wood-inhabiting fungi play crucial roles as decomposers in forest ecosystems and, in this study, two new wood-inhabiting corticioid fungi, *Hyphoderma puerense* and *H. tenuissimum* spp. nov., are proposed, based on a combination of morphological features and molecular evidence. *Hyphoderma puerense* is characterised by effused basidiomata with smooth to floccose hymenial surface, a monomitic hyphal system with clamped generative hyphae and ellipsoid basidiospores. *Hyphoderma tenuissimum* is characterised by resupinate basidiomata with tuberculate to minutely-grandinioid hymenial surface, septate cystidia and cylindrical to allantoid basidiospores. Sequences of ITS and nLSU rRNA markers of the studied samples were generated and phylogenetic analyses were performed with Maximum Likelihood, maximum parsimony and Bayesian Inference methods. These analyses showed that the two new species clustered into *Hyphoderma*, in which *H. puerense* grouped with *H. moniliiforme* and *H. tenuissimum* formed a singleton lineage. In addition, an identification key to Chinese *Hyphoderma* is provided.

Keywords

Corticioid fungi, diversity, Hyphodermataceae, molecular phylogeny, taxonomy, Yunnan Province

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Introduction

Fungi are eukaryotic microorganisms that play fundamental ecological roles as decomposers and mutualists of plants and animals. They drive carbon cycling in forest soils, mediate mineral nutrition of plants and alleviate carbon limitations of other soil organisms (Tedersoo et al. 2014). Fungi form an ecologically important branch of the tree of life, based on their distinct and diverse characters (James et al. 2020).

*Hyphoderma* Wallr. was typified by *H. setigerum* (Fr.) Donk (Donk 1957) and the genus is characterised by resupinate to effuse-reflexed basidiomata of ceraceous consistency and a smooth to tuberculate or hydnoid hymenophore. *Hyphoderma* species are characterised by a monomitic (rarely dimitic) hyphal structure with clamp connections on generative hyphae, presence of cystidia or not, suburniform to subcylindrical to cylindrical basidia and ellipsoid to subglobose, smooth, thin-walled basidiospores (Wallroth 1833; Bernicchia and Gorjón 2010). Currently, about 105 species have been accepted in *Hyphoderma* worldwide (Donk 1957; Nakasone 2008; Wu et al. 2010; Baltazar et al. 2016; Martín et al. 2018; Guan and Zhao 2021a, 2021b; Ma et al. 2021). Index Fungorum (http://www.indexfungorum.org; accessed on 16 July 2021) and MycoBank (https://www.mycobank.org; accessed on 16 July 2021) register 199 specific and infraspecific names in *Hyphoderma*.

*Hyphoderma* has been studied using molecular data, particularly the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) region and the large subunit nuclear ribosomal RNA gene (nLSU). Larsson (2007) showed that *H. obtusum* J. Erikss. and *H. setigerum* clustered into the Meruliaceae Rea and formed a sister taxon to *Hypochnicium polonense* (Bres.) Å. Strid. Telérreria et al. (2012) proposed a new species, *Hyphoderma macaronesicum* Tellería, M. Dueñas, Beltrán-Tej., Rodr.-Armas & M.P. Martín and then discussed the relationships with the closely-related taxa in *Hyphoderma*. Research into the *Hyphoderma setigerum* complex showed that *H. pinicola* Yurch. & Sheng H. Wu represented a fifth species in this complex (Yurchenko and Wu 2014b). A revised family-level classification of the Polyporales revealed that four *Hyphoderma* species grouped into the residual polyporoid clade, belonging to Hyphodermataceae in that they grouped with three related genera in Meripilaceae: *Meripilus* P. Karst., *Physisporinus* P. Karst. and *Rigidoporus* Murrill (Justo et al. 2017).

In this study, two undescribed species of corticioid fungi from forest ecosystems were collected in the Yunnan Province, China. We present morphological and molecular phylogenetic evidence that support the recognition of two new species in *Hyphoderma*, based on the nuclear ribosomal internal transcribed spacer region (ITS1, 5.8S and ITS2) and the nuclear ribosomal nLSU (28S) gene.

Materials and methods

Morphology

The studied specimens are deposited at the Herbarium of Southwest Forestry University (SWFC), Kunming, Yunnan Province, P.R. China. Macromorphological descriptions are based on field notes and photos captured in the field and lab. Colour terminology fol-
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allows Petersen (Petersen 1996). Micromorphological data were obtained from the dried specimens when observed under a light microscope following Dai (2012). The following abbreviations are used: **KOH** = 5% potassium hydroxide water solution, **CB** = Cotton Blue, **CB–** = acyanophilous, **IKI** = Melzer’s Reagent, **IKI–** = both inamyloid and index-trinoid, **L** = mean spore length (arithmetic average for all spores), **W** = mean spore width (arithmetic average for all spores), **Q** = variation in the L/W ratios between the specimens studied and **n** = a/b (number of spores (a) measured from given number (b) of specimens).

**Molecular phylogeny**

The CTAB rapid plant genome extraction kit-DN14 (Aidlab Biotechnologies Co., Ltd, Beijing) was used to obtain genomic DNA from the dried specimens following the manufacturer’s instructions (as done in Zhao and Wu 2017). The nuclear ribosomal ITS region was amplified with the primers ITS5 and ITS4 (White et al. 1990). The nuclear ribosomal LSU gene was amplified with the primers LR0R and LR7 (Vilgalys and Hester 1990; Rehner and Samuels 1994). The PCR procedure for ITS was as follows: initial denaturation at 95 °C for 3 min followed by 35 cycles at 94 °C for 40 s, 58 °C for 45 s and 72 °C for 1 min and a final extension of 72 °C for 10 min. The PCR procedure for nLSU was as follows: initial denaturation at 94 °C for 1 min followed by 35 cycles at 94 °C for 30 s, 48 °C for 1 min and 72 °C for 1.5 min and a final extension of 72 °C for 10 min. The PCR products were purified and sequenced at Kunming Tsingke Biological Technology Limited Company, Kunming, Yunnan Province, P.R. China. All newly-generated sequences were deposited in NCBI GenBank (Table 1).

The sequences were aligned in MAFFT version 7 (Katoh et al. 2019) using the G-INS-i strategy. The alignment was adjusted manually using AliView version 1.27 (Larsson 2014). Each dataset was aligned separately at first and then the ITS1, 5.8S, ITS2 and nLSU regions were combined with Mesquite version 3.51. The combined dataset was deposited in TreeBASE (submission ID 28564). *Climacocystis borealis* (Fr.) Kotl. and Pouzar and *Diplomitoporus crustulinus* (Bres.) Domański were selected as outgroup (Fig. 1) as inspired by a previous study (Justo et al. 2017).

Maximum parsimony analysis in PAUP* version 4.0a169 (http://phylosolutions.com/PAUP-test/) was applied to the combined ITS1+5.8S+ITS2+nLSU dataset. All characters were equally weighted and gaps were treated as missing data. Trees were inferred using the heuristic search option with TBR branch swapping and 1,000 random sequence additions. Max-trees were set to 5,000, branches of zero length were collapsed and all parsimonious trees were saved. Clade robustness was assessed using bootstrap (BT) analysis with 1,000 pseudoreplicates (Felsenstein 1985). Descriptive tree statistics – tree length (TL), composite consistency index (CI), composite retention index (RI), composite rescaled consistency index (RC) and composite homoplasy index (HI) – were calculated for each maximum parsimonious tree generated. The combined dataset was also analysed using Maximum Likelihood (ML) in RAxML-HPC2 through the CIPRES Science Gateway (Miller et al. 2012). Branch support (BS) for the ML analysis was determined by 1,000 bootstrap pseudoreplicates.
| Species name | Specimen No. | GenBank accession No. | References |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Climacocystis borealis | FD-31 | KP135308, KP135310 | Justo et al. (2017) |
| Diplomitoporus crustulinus | FD-137 | KP135299, KP135211 | Justo et al. (2017) |
| Hyphoderma anserenm | USO 286622 | HE577030 | Telleria et al. (2012) |
| H. assimile | CBS 125852 | MH863808, MH875272 | Vu et al. (2019) |
| H. crenocephalum | NH 11538 | DQ677492, DQ677492 | Larsson (2007) |
| H. cristallinum | CLZhao 9338 | MW917161, MW913414 | Guan and Zhao (2021a) |
| H. definitum | CLZhao 9374 | MW917162, MW913415 | Guan and Zhao (2021a) |
| H. fissuratum | CLZhao 10224 | MW917163, MW913416 | Guan and Zhao (2021a) |
| H. floccosum | CLZhao 11723 | MW917164, MW913417 | Guan and Zhao (2021a) |
| H. granuliferum | CLZhao 15841 | MW917165, MW913418 | Guan and Zhao (2021a) |
| H. incrustatum | CLZhao 18459 | MW917166, MW913419 | Guan and Zhao (2021a) |
| H. macaronesicum | MA:Fungi:16099 | HE577027 | Yurchenko and Wu (2014) |
| H. mediterraneum | MA:Fungi:15981 | HE577028 | Yurchenko and Wu (2014) |
| H. membranaceum | MA:Fungi:87736 | KC984399 | Martín et al. (2018) |
| H. nemorale | MA:Fungi:87737 | KC984405 | Martín et al. (2018) |
| H. obtusiforme | MA:Fungi:16099 | HE577027 | Yurchenko and Wu (2014) |
| H. obtusum | MA:Fungi:16099 | HE577027 | Yurchenko and Wu (2014) |
| H. obtusum | MA:Fungi:16099 | HE577027 | Yurchenko and Wu (2014) |
| H. pinicola | MA:Fungi:16099 | HE577027 | Yurchenko and Wu (2014) |
| H. prosopidis | E09/58–9 | HE577029 | Yurchenko and Wu (2015) |
| H. puerense | CLZhao 9476 | MW443045 | Present study |
| H. subsetigerum | Wu 9304–18 | MW443051 | Present study |
| H. subsetigerum | Wu 9202–15 | MW443051 | Present study |
| H. roseocremeum | NH 10545 | MW443051 | Present study |
| H. setigerum | FCUG 1200 | AJ534273 | Nilsson et al. (2003) |
| H. setigerum | FCUG 1688 | AJ534272 | Nilsson et al. (2003) |
| H. sinense | CLZhao 7981 | MW301680, MW301682 | Guan and Zhao (2021b) |
| H. subsetigerum | Wu 9304–18 | MW443045 | Nilsson et al. (2003) |
| H. subsetigerum | Wu 9202–15 | MW443051 | Nilsson et al. (2003) |
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MrModeltest 2.3 (Nylander 2004) was used to determine the best-fit evolution model for each dataset (ITS1+5.8S+ITS2+nLSU) for Bayesian Inference (BI). BI was calculated with MrBayes version 3.2.7a (Ronquist et al. 2012). Four Markov chains were run for two runs from random starting trees for 3 million generations (Fig. 1). The first 25% of all generations was discarded as burn-in. A majority rule consensus tree was computed from the remaining trees. Branches were considered as significantly supported if they received a maximum likelihood bootstrap support value (BS) of > 70%, a maximum parsimony bootstrap support value (BT) of > 70% or a Bayesian posterior probability (BPP) of > 0.95.

## Results

### Molecular phylogeny

The ITS1+5.8S+ITS2+nLSU dataset comprised sequences from 86 fungal specimens representing 46 taxa. The dataset had an aligned length of 2,034 characters, of which 1,360 characters were constant, 131 were variable and parsimony-uninformative and 543 (35%) were parsimony-informative. Maximum parsimony analysis yielded 108 equally parsimonious trees (TL = 3,317, CI = 0.3361, HI = 0.6946, RI = 0.7051 and RC = 0.2370). The best model of nucleotide evolution for the ITS1+5.8S+ITS2+nLSU dataset estimated and applied in the Bayesian analysis was found to be GTR+I+G. Bayesian analysis and ML analysis resulted in a similar topology as in the MP analysis. The Bayesian analysis had an average standard deviation of split frequencies = 0.008952 (BI) and the effective sample size (ESS) across the two runs is double the average ESS (avg. ESS) = 1,771. The Bayesian tree is shown here (Fig. 1).
Figure 1. Maximum parsimony strict consensus tree illustrating the phylogeny of the two new species and related species in *Hyphoderma*, based on ITS1+5.8S+ITS2+nLSU sequences. Branches are labelled with maximum likelihood bootstrap values > 70%, parsimony bootstrap values > 50% and Bayesian posterior probabilities > 0.95, respectively.
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The phylogram inferred from ITS1+5.8S+ITS2+nLSU sequences (Fig. 1) highlights the two undescribed species in *Hyphoderma*; *H. puerense* as a sister to *H. moniliforme* and *H. tenuissimum* that forms an independent monophyletic lineage (100% parsimony bootstrap support, 100% likelihood bootstrap support and 1.00 BPP).

Taxonomy

*Hyphoderma puerense* C.L. Zhao & Q.X. Guan, sp. nov.
MycoBank No: 838411
Figs 2, 3

**Holotype.** China. Yunnan Province, Puer, Jingdong County, Huilianghe Village, GPS co-ordinates 24°04'45"N, 100°56'32"E, altitude 1246 m a.s.l., on fallen angiosperm branch, leg. C.L. Zhao, 4 January 2019, CLZhao 9476 (SWFC).

**Etymology.** *puerense* (Lat.): referring to the locality (Puer) of the specimens.

*Figure 2.* Basidiomata of *Hyphoderma puerense* (holotype). Scale bars: 2 cm (a); 1 mm (b).
Description. Basidioma annual, resupinate, adnate, byssoid, without odour and taste when fresh, up to 15 cm long, 3 cm wide, 100–260 µm thick. Hymenial surface smooth to floccose, cream when fresh, cream to slightly buff on drying. Margin sterile, thinning out, narrow, cream.

Hyphal system monomitic, generative hyphae with clamps, colourless, thick-walled, frequently branched, interwoven, 2.5–4.5 µm in diameter; IKI-, CB-; tissues unchanged in KOH; subhymenial hyphae densely covered by crystals.

Cystidia tubular, encrusted with small crystals, 25–97 × 5.5–9.5 µm.

Basidia clavate to subcylindrical, slightly constricted in the middle to somewhat sinuous, with 4 sterigmata and a basal clamp, 20–30 × 4.5–6 µm.

Basidiospores ellipsoid, colourless, thin-walled, smooth, IKI-, CB-, (5.5–)6–7.5(–8) × 3–4.5(–) µm, L = 6.53 µm, W = 3.71 µm, Q = 1.73–1.79 (n = 60/2).

Habitat and ecology. Climate of the sample collection site is subtropical monsoon climate area, the forest type is evergreen angiosperm forest and samples were collected on fallen angiosperm branches.
Additional specimens examined. China. Yunnan Province, Puer, Jingdong County, Huilianghe Village, GPS co-ordinates 24°04’45"N, 100°56’32"E, altitude 1246 m a.s.l., on fallen angiosperm branch, leg. C.L. Zhao, 5 January 2019, CLZhao 9583 (SWFC).

*Hyphoderma tenuissimum* C.L. Zhao & Q.X. Guan, sp. nov.
MycoBank No: 838412
Figs 4, 5

Holotype. China. Yunnan Province, Chuxiong, Zixishan Forestry Park, GPS co-ordinates 25°01’26"N, 101°24’37"E, altitude 2313 m a.s.l., on fallen angiosperm branch, leg. C.L. Zhao, 1 July 2018, CLZhao 7221 (SWFC).

Etymology. *tenuissimum* (Lat.): referring to the thin basidiomata.

*Figure 4.* Basidiomata of *Hyphoderma tenuissimum* (holotype). Scale bars: 2 cm (a); 1 mm (b).
**Description.** Basidioma annual, resupinate, adnate, membranaceous when fresh, hard membranaceous upon drying, up to 20 cm long, 3 cm wide, 30–100 µm thick. Hymenial surface tuberculate to minutely-grandinioid, slightly buff when fresh, buff upon drying, cracking. Margin sterile, slightly buff, 1 mm wide.
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Hyphal system monomitic, generative hyphae with clamps, colourless, thick-walled, frequently branched, interwoven, 3–5 µm in diameter, IKI-, CB-; tissues unchanged in KOH.

Cystidia large, cylindrical, with 4–12 clamped septa, with abundant encrustations, 50–220 × 6.5–13 µm.

Basidia clavate to subcylindrical, constricted, somewhat sinuous, with 4 sterigmata and a basal clamp connection, 17–31 × 4.5–8 µm.

Basidiospores cylindrical, colourless, thin-walled, smooth, with oil drops inside, IKI–, CB–, 7–10.5(−11) × 3–4.5(−5) µm, L = 8.75 µm, W = 4.15 µm, Q = 2.02–2.18 (n = 120/4).

**Habitat and ecology.** Climate of the sample collection site is subtropical monsoon climate area, the forest type is evergreen angiosperm forest and samples were collected on fallen angiosperm branches.

**Additional specimens examined.** China. Yunnan Province, Chuxiong, Zixishan National Forestry Park, GPS co-ordinates 25°01'26"N, 101°24'37"E, altitude 2263 m a.s.l., on fallen angiosperm branch, leg. C.L. Zhao, 1 July 2018, CLZhao 6930, CLZhao 7003 (SWFC); Wenshan, Pingba Town, Wenshan National Nature Reserve, GPS co-ordinates 23°18'19"N, 104°42'47"E, altitude 1976 m a.s.l., on fallen angiosperm branch, leg. C.L. Zhao, 25 July 2019, CLZhao 16210 (SWFC).

**Discussion**

In the present study, two new species, *Hyphoderma puerense* and *H. tenuissimum* are described, based on phylogenetic analyses and morphological characters.

Phylogenetically, the two new taxa were found to belong to *Hyphoderma*, in which *H. puerense* forms a sister species to *H. moniliforme* and *H. tenuissimum* forms an independent monophyletic lineage (100% BS, 100% BP and 1.00 BPP).

Morphologically, *Hyphoderma puerense* is similar to *H. obtusiforme* J. Erikss. & Å. Strid and *H. obtusum* in having a smooth hymenium, non-septate cylindrical cystidia and ellipsoid basidiospores. However, *H. obtusiforme* differs from *H. puerense* by both larger basidia (30–40 × 8–9 µm) and basidiospores (10–14 × 5–7 µm; Eriksson and Ryvarden 1975). *Hyphoderma obtusum* also differs from *H. puerense* by larger basidia (30–35 × 6–8 µm) and basidiospores (8–9 × 5–6.5 µm; Eriksson 1958). *Hyphoderma puerense* is similar to *H. roseocremeum* (Bres.) Donk in having smooth hymenium and non-septate cylindrical cystidia. However, *Hyphoderma roseocremeum* differs through the presence of larger basidiospores (8–12 × 3–4 µm; Bernicchia and Gorjón 2010).

Morphologically, *Hyphoderma tenuissimum* is similar to *H. floccosum* C.L. Zhao & Q.X. Guan, *H. mopanshanense*, *H. nudicephalum* Gilb. & M. Blackw., *H. pinicola*, *H. setigerum* and *H. subsetigerum* Sheng H. Wu in having septocystidia and cylindrical basidiospores. However, *Hyphoderma floccosum* differs from *H. tenuissimum* by having a floccose hymenial surface and tubular cystidia (Guan and Zhao 2021b); *H. mopanshanense* is separated from *H. tenuissimum* by having porulose to pilose hymenial surface and smaller basidia (15–18.5 × 3–4.5 µm; Ma et al. 2021); *H. nu-
dicephalum differs from H. tenuissimum in the nature of the septocystidial apex (lacking encrustation; swollen up to 14 µm; Gilbertson and Blackwell 1988); H. pinicola is separated from H. tenuissimum by having basidia with two sterigmata and larger basidiospores (13–16 × 4–4.5 µm; Yurchenko and Wu 2014b); H. setigerum differs by having a combination of thin basidiomata with very long septocystidia (Bernicchia and Gorjón 2010); and H. subsetigerum differs from H. tenuissimum by having narrower basidia (20–30 × 4.5–5.5 µm) and smaller basidiospores (6–8 × 2.8–3.2 µm; Wu 1997).

Nilsson et al. (2003) highlighted the phylogeography of Hyphoderma setigerum (Basidiomycota) in the Northern Hemisphere in a study based on molecular analysis, morphological studies and crossing tests. Nine preliminary taxa were shown to exist inside the H. setigerum complex; in the present study, H. tenuissimum belongs to the H. setigerum complex, based on the morphological character of long septocystidia and phylogenetic evidence. A previous study indicated the importance of vicariance in the evolution of this species complex (Nilsson et al. 2003) and our study shows that the specimens of H. tenuissimum are collected in Zixishan National Forestry Park (GPS co-ordinates 25°01’26”N, 101°24’37”E), Chuxiong, Yunnan Province, China, which is distinct from H. setigerum s. str. (Norway: Oppland and Finland: Pohjois-Häme). The present samples of H. subsetigerum and H. nudicephalum were collected in Yunnan Province, China, but neither of these taxa groups together closely with H. tenuissimum (Fig. 1).

In the current phylogenetic tree, two partially annotated GenBank sequences (KJ668522 and KJ714002) of Hyphoderma sp. (South Korea) cluster closely with four sequences of the new species Hyphoderma tenuissimum, although whether they really belong to this species remains to be assessed. It is certainly conceivable that they do, which would mean that Hyphoderma tenuissimum has been collected and sequenced at least six times in Asia. Regarding the new taxon H. puerense (Fig. 1), four partially annotated GenBank sequences (KR868735, KR868736, KR868737 and DQ340327) form a reasonably well-supported clade together with our two specimens of H. puerense. We interpret this to mean that all six taxa represent H. puerense. All of the samples in this clade are from Asia, which supports the point of the importance of vicariance in the evolution in this genus.

Key to 30 accepted species of Hyphoderma in China

1. Cystidia absent........................................................................................................2
   – Cystidia present ..................................................................................................5
2. Hymenial surface graninoid ................................................................. H. acystidiatum
   – Hymenial surface smooth ..............................................................................3
3. Basidiospores > 10.5 µm in length .................................................... H. densum
   – Basidiospores < 10.5 µm in length .................................................................4
4. Hymenophore cracked; basidiospores > 8.5 µm in length .......... H. fissuratum
   – Hymenophore uncracked; basidiospores < 8.5 µm in length ........ H. sibiricum
5. Hymenophore smooth ......................................................................................6
   – Hymenophore tuberculate, porulose, graninoid or odontoid....................15
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6 Two types of cystidia present
   – One type of cystidia present

7 Moniliform cystidia absent
   – Moniliform cystidia present

8 Hymenophore uncracked
   – Hymenophore cracked

9 Basidiospores > 11 µm in length
   – Basidiospores < 11 µm in length

10 Basidiospores > 8.5 µm in length
    – Basidiospores < 8.5 µm in length

11 Cystidia moniliform
   – Cystidia cylindrical

12 Basidiospores > 9 µm in length
    – Basidiospores < 9 µm in length

13 Basidiospores ellipsoid < 10 µm in length
    – Basidiospores cylindrical > 10 µm in length

14 Basidiospores > 12 µm in length
    – Basidiospores < 12 µm in length

15 Hymenophore odontoid or grandinioid
    – Hymenophore tuberculate, porulose

16 Hymenophore odontoid
    – Hymenophore grandinioid

17 Basidiospores < 4.5 µm in width
    – Basidiospores > 4.5 µm in width

18 Basidiospores larger 7–10.5 × 3–4.5 µm
    – Basidiospores smaller 6–8 × 2.8–3.2 µm

19 Cystidia of two types
    – Cystidia of one type

20 Septate cystidia absent
    – Septate cystidia present

21 Basidiospores < 4 µm in width
    – Basidiospores > 4 µm in width

22 Basidia 2-sterigmata, basidiospores > 13 µm in length
    – Basidia 4-sterigmata, basidiospores < 13 µm in length

23 Septate cystidia present
    – Septate cystidia absent

24 Hymenophore porulose to pilose, basidia < 5 µm in width
    – Hymenophore tuberculate, basidia > 5 µm in width

25 Hymenophore porulose
    – Hymenophore tuberculate, colliculose

26 Cystidia < 30 µm in length
    – Cystidia > 30 µm in length

27 Basidia > 30 µm in length
    – Basidia < 30 µm in length
28 Hymenophore cracking, cystidia < 10 µm in width..................\textit{H. medioburiense} \\
– Hymenophore not cracking, cystidia > 10 µm in width ............\textit{H. clavatum} \\
29 Hymenophore colliculose.................................................\textit{H. nemorale} \\
– Hymenophore tuberculate .................................................\textit{H. membranaceum}

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