

## SYMPHYTOCARPUS TRECHISPORUS (MYXOGASTREA) IN POLAND

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**Abstract.** *Symphytocarpus trechisporus* (Berk. ex Torrend) Nann.-Bremek. is rare in Poland, known previously from only one locality. Sixty years after the original report, this paper presents two new localities of it in separate regions of Poland. Although *S. trechisporus* is recorded mostly on *Sphagnum* sp., the taxon does not seem to be attached to a specific substrate; rather it is associated with acidic habitats.

**Key words:** distribution, ecology, Myxogastrea, Poland, slime molds, *Symphytocarpus trechisporus*

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### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Symphytocarpus* was first described by Ing and Nannenga-Bremekamp in 1967 as intermediate between the genus *Amaurochaete* Rostaf. and the genera *Stemonitis* Gled. and *Comatricha* Preuss. Ing and Nannenga-Bremekamp (1967) transferred to *Symphytocarpus* species of related genera whose sporocarps were partly merged, forming a pseudoaethalium, without a surface net and with a furfureaceous peridium. At present the genus contains nine species (Lado 2005–2014). Four of them have been recorded in Poland: *Symphytocarpus amaurochaetoides* Nann.-Bremek., *S. confluens* (Cooke & Ellis) Ing & Nann.-Bremek., *S. flaccidus* (Lister) Ing & Nann.-Bremek. and *S. trechisporus* (Berk. ex Torrend) Nann.-Bremek. (Drozdowicz *et al.* 2003). Two of them (*S. flaccidus*, *S. trechisporus*) are on the red list of Myxomycetes rare in Poland (Drozdowicz *et al.* 2006). *Symphytocarpus trechisporus* was recorded only once, by Szulczewski (1951), in Wielkopolski National Park. Here we present two new localities of it, recorded in central and northwestern Poland (Fig. 1).

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The material was collected in the field in 2011 and 2014, and observed with a Nikon SMZ 745T stereomicroscope and a Nikon YS100 light microscope. Permanent slides were made using Hoyer’s medium. Spores (30 per collection) were measured at 100× using an oil immersion objective. Photographs were taken with a Nikon D7000 and a Nikon H600L light microscope. Spore ornamentation was observed on air-dried specimens with a JEOL JSM 5410 scanning electron microscope. SEM micrographs were taken in the Department of Cell Biology and Imaging at the Institute of Zoology, Jagiellonian University, Kraków.

The specimen from the Święte Ługi Nature Reserve is deposited in the Herbarium of the Łódź University (LOD). A duplicate and permanent preparations are deposited in the MYXO division of the herbarium of the Institute of Botany, Jagiellonian University (KRA). The specimen from Bory Tucholskie National Park and permanent preparations are deposited in the MYXO division of the herbarium of the Institute of Botany, Jagiellonian University (KRA).

For comparison we obtained on loan a specimen of *S. trechisporus* and a type specimen of *S. cristatus* Nann.-Bremek. from the National Botanical Garden, Meise, Belgium (BR).

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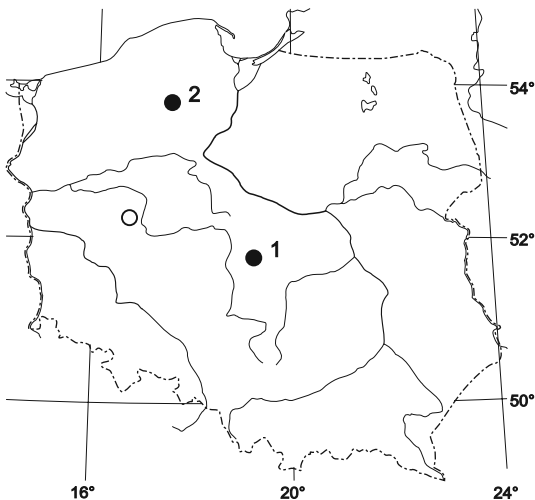
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

***Symphycarpus trechisporus*** (Berk. ex Torrend)  
Nann.-Bremek. Figs 1 & 2

Proc. Kon. Ned. Akad. Wetensch., C 70(2): 219. 1967.  
– *Stemonitis fusca* var. *trechispora* Berk. ex Torrend,  
Brotéria, Sér. Bot. 7: 81. 1908. *Stemonitis trechispora*  
(Berk. ex Torrend) T. Macbr., N. Amer. Slime-moulds,  
ed. 2: 159. 1922.

Sporocarps dark brown, clumped, elongated, cylindrical, high, 2–3 mm in diameter, often irregularly shaped due to clumping, sessile. Stalk absent or very short, dark brown, 0.017–1 mm long. Hypothallus shining, brown. Peridium evanescent. Columella almost reaching sporocarp apex, of variable width, sometimes broader at base and tapering towards apex. Capillitium brown, branching from the columella as a net with membranous axils, with free ends at surface (not forming surface net). Spores dark brown in mass, globose, 10–12(–14)  $\mu\text{m}$ . Spore ornamentation typical in most spores: complete reticulum. Some spores having incomplete reticulum.

MATERIAL EXAMINED: POLAND. (1) Ca 60 km SW of Łódź, Święte Ługi Nature Reserve (51°23'15"N,

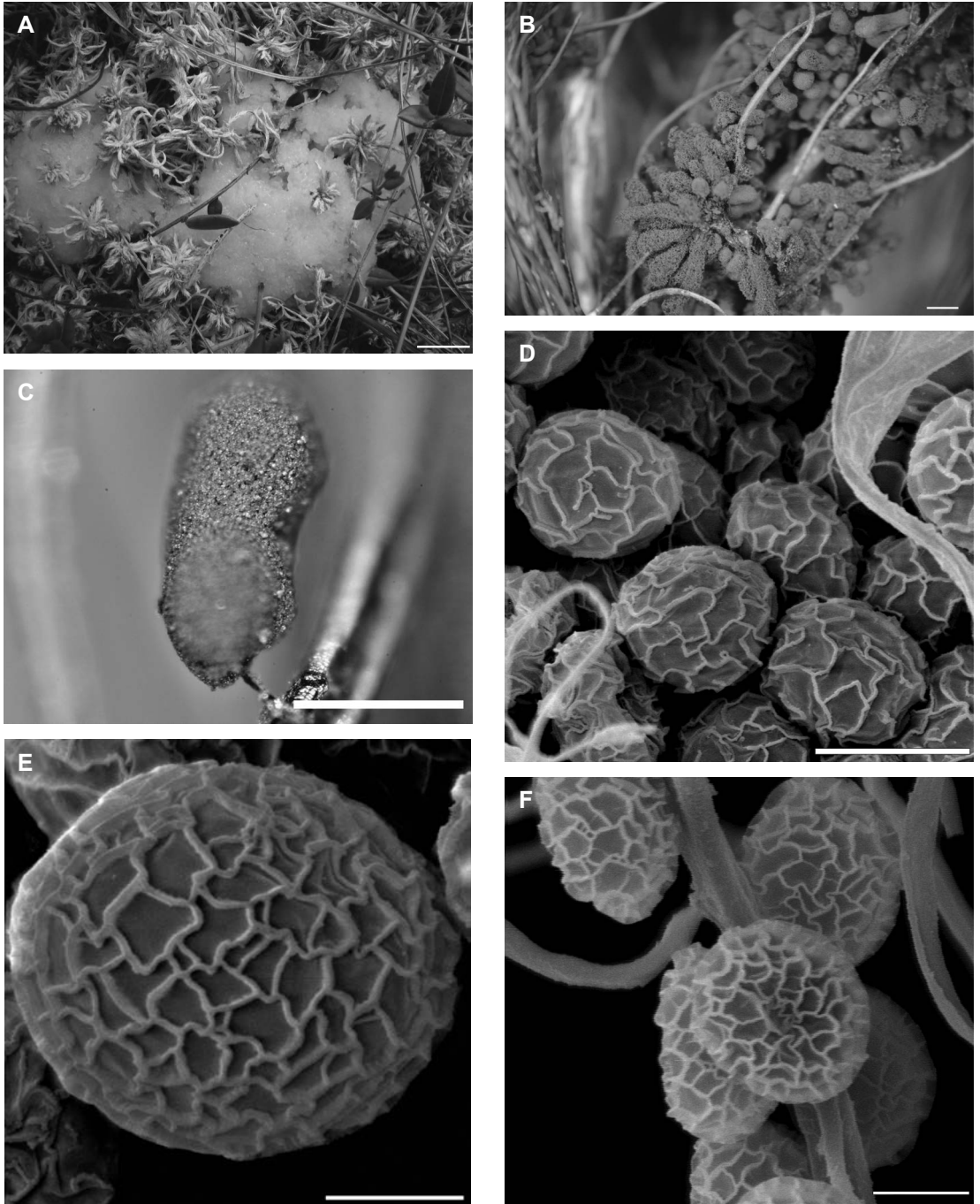


**Fig. 1.** Distribution of *Symphycarpus trechisporus* (Berk. ex Torrend) Nann.-Bremek. in Poland. ○ – known locality, ● – new localities (1 – Święte Ługi Nature Reserve; 2 – Bory Tucholskie National Park).

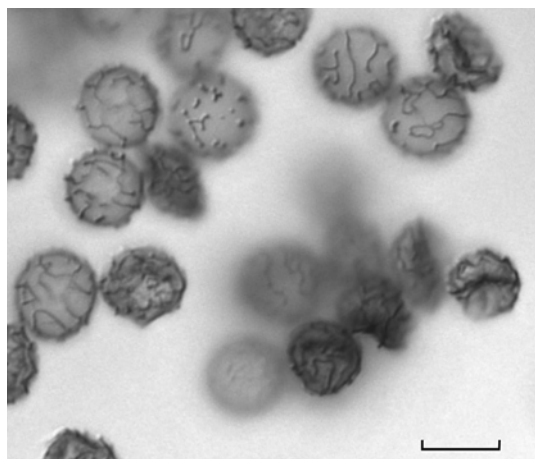
19°6'21"E), *Eriophorum vaginatum*–*Sphagnum fallax* plant association, on *Polytrichum* sp., 22 Aug. 2011, leg. B. Grzesiak (KRA 10816); (2) Ca 10 km west of Chojnice, Bory Tucholskie National Park, *Scheuchzerietalia palustris* plant association (53°49'41"N, 17°33'47"E), on *Sphagnum* sp., 20 July 2014, leg. A. Salamaga (KRA 10817).

REMARKS. Generally the macro- and micro-morphological characters of our specimens are consistent with the description of the species, but we also observed spores of different size and ornamentation in the slide preparations. The ornamentation of the spores in the collection from the first locality posed special difficulties. In the slide preparations we observed spores with a complete reticulum as well as with an incomplete reticulum with lax bands, which is a characteristic trait of *S. cristatus*. Rammeloo (1975) presented spore micrographs of *S. trechisporus* with ornamentation ranging from an incomplete to an almost complete reticulum, but information on such variation of spore ornamentation in the species is not given in the keys (Ing 1999; Poulain *et al.* 2011b). For this reason we compared our material with specimens of *S. cristatus* and *S. trechisporus* loaned from the National Botanic Garden, Belgium (Figs 2f & 3). Each loaned specimen proved to have spore ornamentation characteristic of its species. Thus, with the exception of spores with atypical ornamentation, all other morphological traits of our specimen from the first locality are characteristic of *S. trechisporus*. In the second collection we observed spores showing characteristic ornamentation and a complete reticulum but they were slightly larger (11–12  $\mu\text{m}$  in size) than in those of the first specimen. There were single spores up to 14  $\mu\text{m}$  in size. The maximum spore size reported in the literature is 13  $\mu\text{m}$  (Ing 1999). We suggest that these differences are due to fact that the sporocarps collected at both localities, especially at the first one, were not fully developed.

The taxon occurs on acid mires where *Sphagnum* sp. predominates (Ing 1999) and apparently is associated with the habitat, not the substrate. Our specimen from the first locality was found on *Polytrichum* sp., and the one from



**Fig. 2.** *Symphytocarpus trechisporus* (Berk. ex Torrend) Nann.-Bremek. A – white, immature pseudoaethalium, B – pseudoaethalium, C – sporocarp with stalk, D – spores with incomplete reticulum, E – spores with complete reticulum, F – spores (A – A. Salamaga, KRA 10817; B–E – B. Grzesiak, KRA 10816; F – Nannenga 2071, BR MYCO-052080–88). Scale bars: A–C = 1 mm, D = 8  $\mu$ m, E = 4  $\mu$ m, F = 6  $\mu$ m.



**Fig. 3.** Spores of *Symphytocarpus cristatus* Nann.-Bremek. (Nannenga 2964, BR – MYCO – 052956 – 91). Scale bar = 10  $\mu$ m.

the second locality was found on *Sphagnum* sp., as similarly reported in Scotland, England and Germany (Ing 1999; Schnittler *et al.* 2011). It has also been recorded on wood of *Liriodendron* sp. in moist chamber cultures (Härkönen *et al.* 2004). Szulczewski (1951) reported finding *S. trechisporus* on wood but gave no information on the type of the habitat colonized.

*Symphytocarpus trechisporus* is a rare species. The literature notes few localities in Europe and worldwide (Adamonyte 2003; Härkönen *et al.* 2004; Ing 1999; Lado & Wrigley de Basanta 2008; Nannenga-Bremekamp 1991; Neubert *et al.* 2000; Van Hoof 2006). In Poland the species was known previously from only one locality and is red-listed as a rare myxomycete. It is also reported as rare in Germany (Schnittler *et al.* 2011). We attribute its rarity in Poland to its preference for colonizing acid habitats: a variety of peat bogs. In Poland, investigations of the myxomycetes in these types of habitats have not been conducted. The specimen collected at the first locality was found by accident during research on bryophilous fungi occurring in peat bogs. With the ecology of the species in mind, we paid special attention to this type of habitat when studying slime molds in the Bory Tucholskie National Park; as a result, the second locality of the species was discovered.

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