

***Hemitrichia serpula* (Scop.) Rostaf. ex Lister SM72 (= PDD 110445)** – a good fit but a bit darker than other specimens seen which is perhaps due to the very wet decorticated wood on which it fruited. Worth noting is the presence of the parasite *Polycephalomyces tomentosus* which was seen earlier on another member of the Trichiaceae - *Trichia botrytis* SM68.

Substrate & collection site: very wet decorticated dead wood; Orongorongo Track, Rimutaka Forest Park

Collection date: 9 November 2011

Collector: Ann Bell; **Identifier:** Dan Mahoney

Voucher materials: dried herbarium material with two Shear's mounting fluid (SMF) heated, semi-permanent slide mounts (SM72 = PDD 110445); colored projection slides from a Zeiss dissecting scope (best scanned) and digital photos of microscopic detail from an Olympus BX51 scope & Olympus DP25 digital camera; Dan's brief comments.

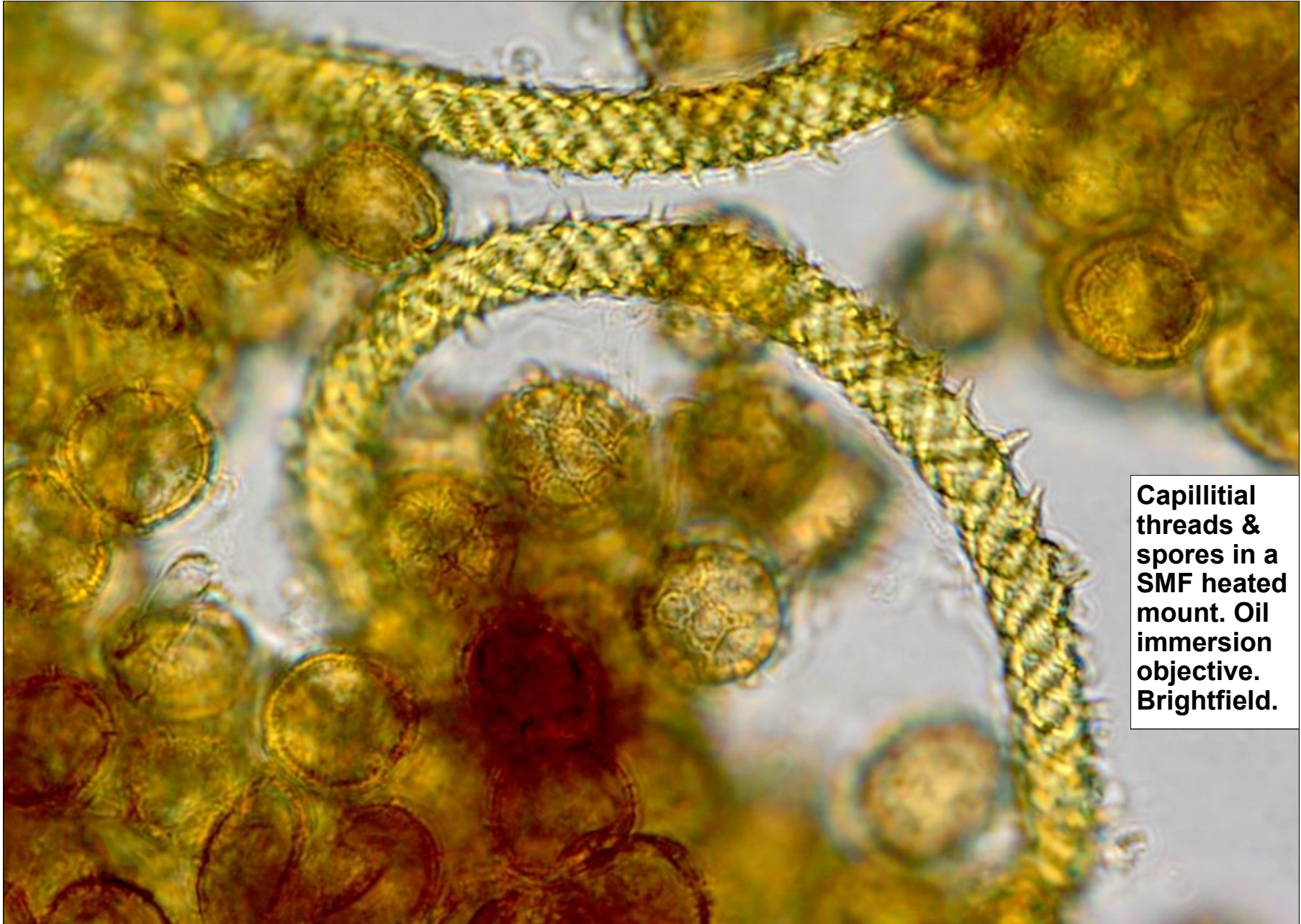
Brief comments:

1. Because of the wetness, this specimen wasn't as good as those seen earlier. The extent of the reticulum was greater though and the spaces between its plasmodiocarp elements wider. The presence of the *Polycephalomyces tomentosus* parasite was new (for me on this species). The peridium was darker (maroon-colored) but the longitudinal slit still showed the inner yellow spore mass. Spores were globose, reticulate & mostly 12–15 μm . The capillitium was as described by Stephenson (Stephenson, S.L. 2003. The Fungi of New Zealand Volume 3: Myxomycetes of New Zealand. Fungal Diversity Research Series 11: 1-238.), although very slightly greater in width (6–8 μm vs his 4–6 μm).
2. Once dried and fumigated the plasmodiocarp reticulum was almost unrecognizable. The capillitial threads had expanded to such an extent that the once discrete plasmodiocarp was now a mass of yellowish fuzz with its individual elements often difficult to discern. Also of interest was the small area where the parasite *Polycephalomyces tomentosus* had been observed earlier. This area wasn't fuzzy and its capillitial elements weren't visible. Obviously the parasite had affected the development of the area which it infected.

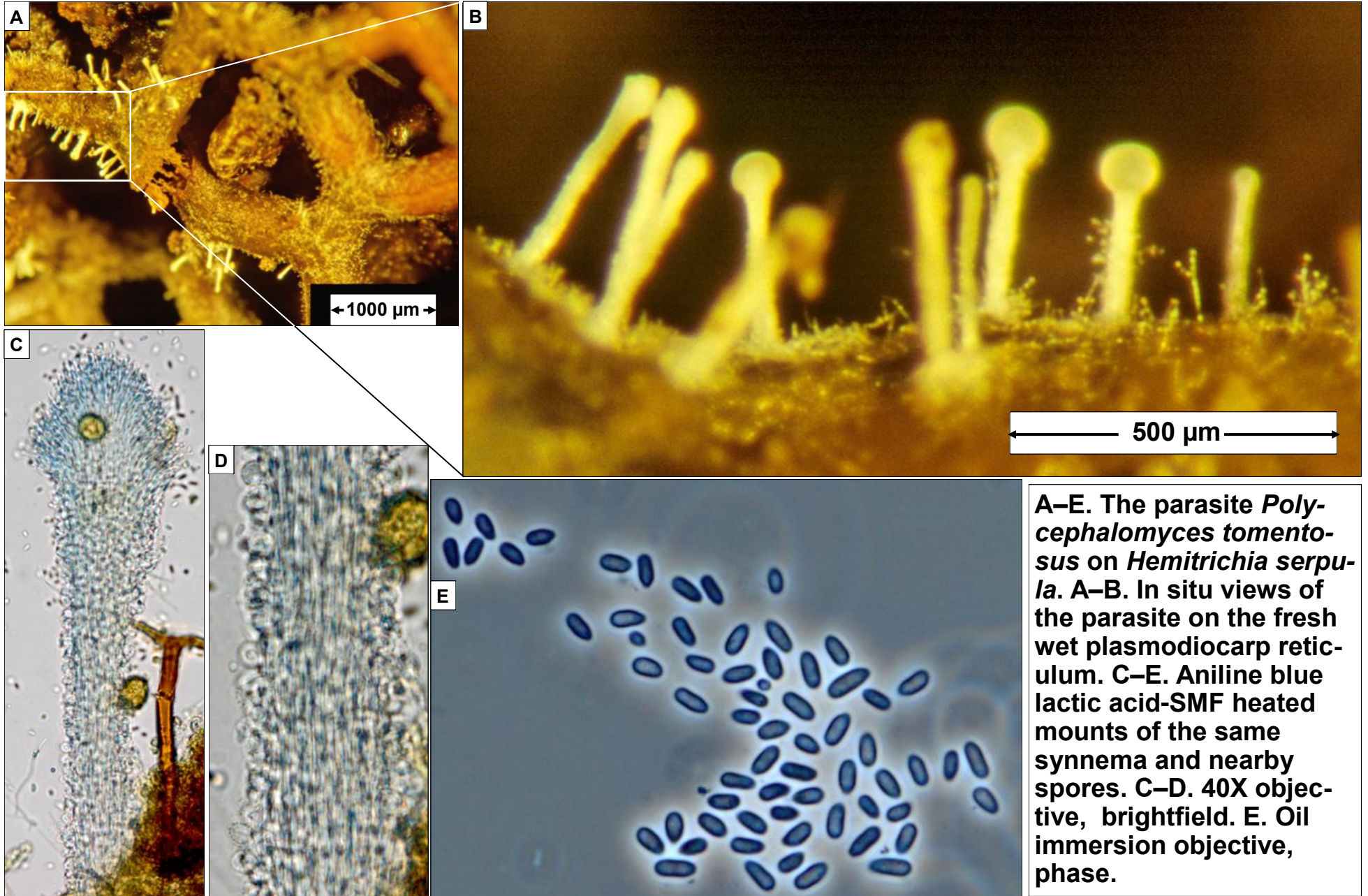
In situ view of a small portion
of the fresh wet plasmodiocarp
reticulum



← 1667 μm →



Capillitial threads & spores in a SMF heated mount. Oil immersion objective. Brightfield.



A–E. The parasite *Polyccephalomyces tomentosus* on *Hemitrichia serpula*. **A–B.** In situ views of the parasite on the fresh wet plasmodiocarp reticulum. **C–E.** Aniline blue lactac acid-SMF heated mounts of the same synnema and nearby spores. **C–D.** 40X objective, brightfield. **E.** Oil immersion objective, phase.