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A NEW SPECIES OF LYOPHYLLUM FROM JAPAN

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On close inspection the Japanese fungus described as Lyophyllum transforme (Britz.) Sing. by Imazeki & Hongo (1965) proved to be different from the European L. transforme. Both have been described with "triangular" spores. However, "triangular" is a rough approximation of the projection image of a three-dimensional body into two dimensions. In both species the spore shape can be described using the image of a short banana bearing an enormous dorsal thickening. The spores of the European species bear a high, flattened, dorsal cone centered around the middle of the abaxial side, whereas the Japanese species bears an incomplete, apical ring thickest on the abaxial side and tapering towards the adaxial side where it remains open. It becomes to resemble a fig, and so the Japanese species is called sykosporum, meaning "fig-spored".

LYOPHYLLUM SYKOSPORUM nov. spec.

Pileus e convexo repandus, carnosus, siccus, brunneo-fuliginosus vel fusco-brunneus, subsericeus, tactu nigrescens, 4-9 cm latus. Lamellae subconfertae, postice adnato-rotundatae vel subdecurrentes, pallide

griseae, tactu nigro-maculatae. Stipes fibrilloso-striatus, pallide griseus, fuscescens, apice pruinoso-tomentoso, basi clavatus vel bulbosus, 7-10 cm longus, 10-18 mm crassus, deorsum 20-30 mm crassus, solidus vel farctus. Caro alba, subinodora, mitis, tactu nigro-maculata. Sporae 5,5-8,5 x 4,5-6,5 μ m, ficiformes, laeves, inamyloideae, cyanophilae, uninucleatae. Basidia 28-35 x 8-9 μ m, clavata, fibulata, tetrasporigera, cum granulis siderophilis. Cystidia et cheilocystidia nullae. Pileipellis subgelatinosa, 30-40 μ m crassa, hyphis intertextis vel subregularis, 2-5 μ m crassis, fibulatis. Trama lamellarum regularis.

Hab.: Caespitatus, ad terram silvis abietis.

Holotypus: Hongo 2752 (LAU).

Pileus 4-9 cm broad, convex then expanded, fleshy; surface dry, slightly innately fibrillose, brownish-grey to umbrinous; margin incurved when young; flesh thick, soft, white to greyish white, gradually blackening when injured; taste mild, odour slight. Gills sinuate to adnate-sinuate or adnate-subdecurrent, finally separating; moderately crowded; about 5 mm broad; pale grey, staining black when touched. Stipe 7-10 cm long, 1-1.8 cm thick at apex, 2-3 cm thick at the clavate to bulbous base; fibrillose striate, pruinose at apex; pale grey, becoming darker in age; solid or stuffed.

Spores asymmetrically fig-shaped by an enormous apical thickening tapering towards the abaxial side so that the cross section near the apex looks like a segment roughly a quarter of a circle, therefore irregularly triangular to quadrangular in projection; 5.5-8.5 x 4.5 - 6.5 μ m; uniculate; wall smooth, cyanophilous and siderophilous, inamyloid. Basidia 28-35 x 8-9 / 3-4 μ m; four spored; clamped; with siderophilous granules. Cystidia and marginal cells absent. Pileipellis subgelatinized, the hyphae being separated by a space about 1-2 times their diameter; hyphae cylindrical, 2-5 μ m broad, interwoven on the disk, more radially arranged near the margin of the pileus, clamped; pigment intrusting and interhyphal. Hymenophoral trama regular; hyphae clamped, 8-16 μ m broad in the mediostratum. No gloeopleurous hyphae seen.

Cepitose, gregarious or in small clusters, on the ground in woods, especially of conifers. Summer and autumn. Japan.

Material studied: Hongo 3164 and 2752 (type, LAU).

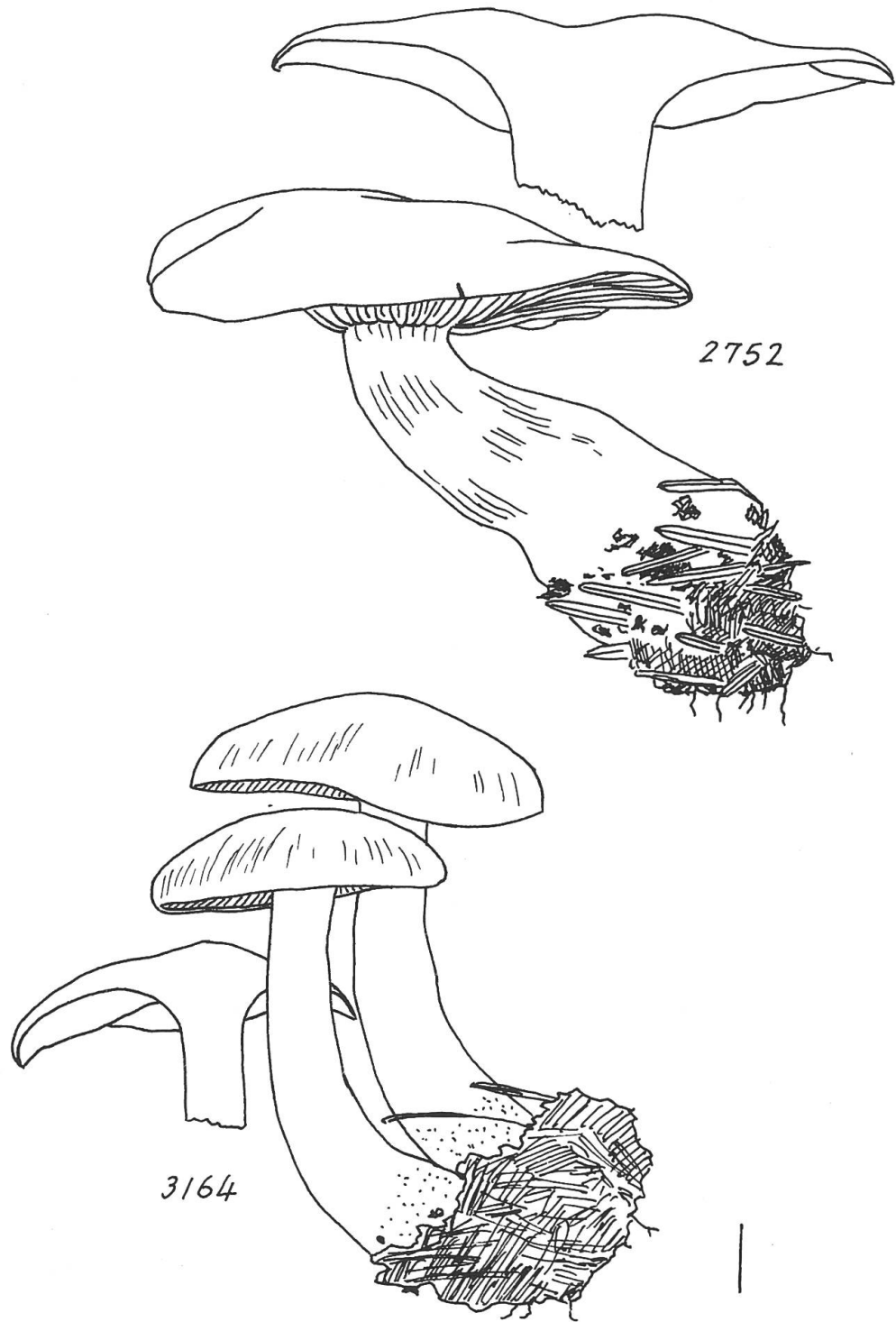


Figure 1: Lyophyllum sykosporum Hongo & Clç. Bar = 1 cm.

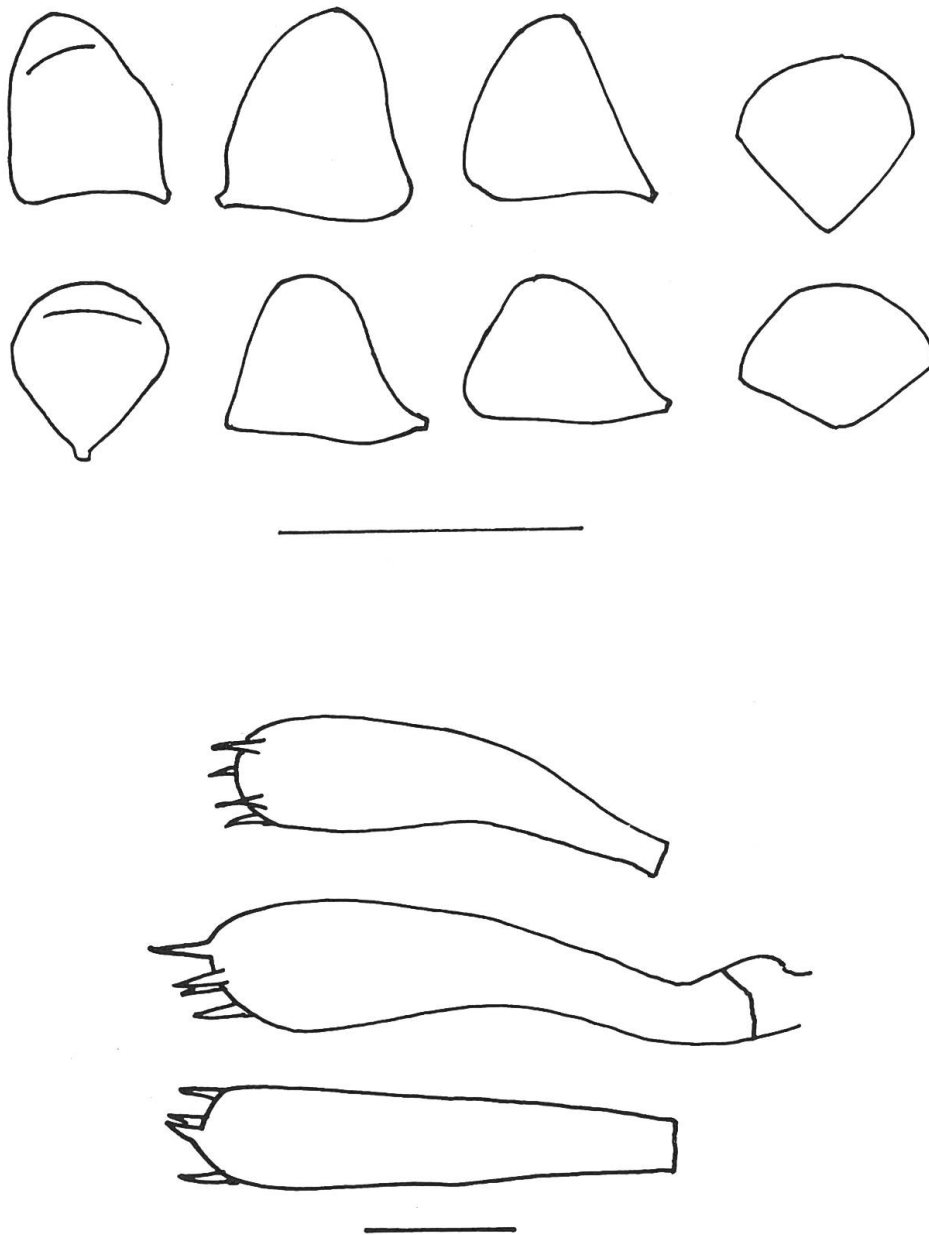


Figure 2: Lyophyllum sykosporum Hongo & Clç., spores and basidia.
Bar = 10 μ m.