

Outlineoffungi.org – Note 1565 *Auriculoscypha*

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Auriculoscypha D.A. Reid & Manim.

Auriculoscypha is a monotypic genus in order *Septobasidiales*, phylum *Basidiomycota* (Reid & Manimohan 1985). *Auriculoscypha anacardiicola*, the type species, appears to be endemic to Southwest India. Although originally assigned to the order *Auriculariales*, its affinities to the *Septobasidiales* were indicated when the genus was proposed (Reid & Manimohan 1985). However, its association with insects was not known then. Lalitha & Leelavathy (1990) revealed an obligate association between *A. anacardiicola* and a coccid and suggested the transfer of *Auriculoscypha* from *Auriculariales* to *Septobasidiales*. Lalitha et al. (1994) also observed a yeast phase in the life cycle, which supported its redispotion in *Septobasidiales*. Kumar et al. (2007) placed *Auriculoscypha* in the *Septobasidiales* based on molecular and ultrastructural characters. *Septobasidiaceae* contains five genera, all phytoparasitic insect symbionts (Swann et al. 2001) associated with scale insects on living plants. *Auriculoscypha* differs from other genera of the family in having woody, stipitate-cupulate basidiocarps. The basidiocarps of the other genera are simple mycelial mats resupinate on the host plant (Kumar et al. 2007). *Auriculoscypha* is characterised by basidiocarps that grow from small tubercles partially or fully immersed in the bark of mostly anacardiaceous trees, trapping the coccids inside. The genus is further characterised by pendant, stipitate-cupulate basidiocarps with a cylindrical stipe and a cup- or saucer-shaped pileus, a woody, non-gelatinous texture, thick-walled, brown, septate hyphae lacking clamp connections, circinate basidia with two fertile segments and large, septate basidiospores (Reid & Manimohan 1985).

References

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