Outlineoffungi.org - Note 1404 *Absconditonia*

Web-links: Index Fungorum, Facesoffungi, MycoBank, GenBank

Absconditonia Suija & van den Boom

Suija & Van den Boom (2023) introduced *Absconditonia* under *Stictidaceae* (*Ostropales*, *Ostropomycetidae*, *Lecanoromycetes*, *Pezizomycotina*, *Ascomycota*) to accommodate two species according to morphology and phylogeny analyses using ITS, LSU, and SSU sequence data. The genus is typified by *Absconditonia rubra* (van den Boom, M. Brand & Suija) Suija & van den Boom, and the second species is *Absconditonia sublignicola* Suija & van den Boom. *Absconditonia* is similar to *Absconditella*, but it is distinguished by its highly branched-anastomosed paraphyses and excipulum that includes radial hyphae (Yadav et al. 2023). Based on phylogenetic analysis, *A. rubra* forms a separate lineage from the core *Absconditella* group and is closely related to genera *Xyloschistes*, *Ingvariella*, and *Cryptodiscus*. Van den Boom et al. (2015) highlighted several morphological and ecological characteristics that distinguish A. rubra from the traditional concept of *Absconditella* species. *Absconditella rubra* has septate and highly branched paraphyses, while true *Absconditella* species typically have simple, less distinct septate paraphyses that may branch only in the upper part. The excipulum of *A. rubra* consists of radial hyphae, while in true *Absconditella* species, it is usually parallel or cellular in structure. Additionally, *A. rubra* displays orange to reddish pigmentation in its apothecial sections, which differs from the typically unpigmented true *Absconditella* species, except for a rare species, *A. fossarum*, with similar pigmentation features. *Absconditella fossarum* differs in characteristics such as ascospore size and septation as compared to *A. rubra*. Despite lacking molecular data for *Absconditella fossarum*, its excipulum and paraphyses structures align more closely with true *Absconditella* species rather than *A. rubra*. There is a lack of information about the asexual morph of *Absconditella*, but pycnidia have been observed in *A. rubra* (Van den Boom and colleagues 2015). Typically, *Absconditella* species are found with algal films on short-lived substrates like bryophytes, wood, plant debris, or unstable soil, while *A. rubra* is unique in inhabiting long-lasting substrates such as the bark of living broad-leaved trees (Yadav et al. 2023). Furthermore, through the analysis of ITS sequences, a new *Absconditella*-like species (*A. sublignicola*) has been identified within this group. This new species closely resembles *Absconditella lignicola* but differs in having smaller ascomata, unique ascospores, and conglutinated paraphyses (Yadav et al. 2023).

References

Suija A, Van den Boom P. 2023 – Phylogenetic relationships, taxonomic novelties, and combinations within *Stictidaceae* (*Ostropales*, *Lecanoromycetes*, *Ascomycota)*, focus on *Absconditella*. Mycological Progress 22(6), 46.

Van den Boom P, Brand AM, Suija A. 2015 – A new species of *Absconditella* from western and central Europe with a key to the European members. Phytotaxa. 238(3), 271–7.

Entry by

Maryam Tavakol Noorabadi, Innovative Institute for Plant Health, Zhongkai University of Agriculture and Engineering, Guangzhou 510225, People's Republic of China

(edited by **Kevin D. Hyde**)

Published online 18 June 2024