

## Outlineoffungi.org - Note 629 [Myrmecopterula](#)

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[Myrmecopterula](#) Leal-Dutra, Dentinger & G.W. Griff.

The species of [Myrmecopterula](#) are usually associated with ant nests, growing on living or dead nests, or are cultivated by the ants ([Leal-Dutra et al. 2020](#)). Phylogenetic analyses of combined ITS, LSU, and *rpb2* confirmed its phylogenetic position in *Pterulaceae* ([Leal-Dutra et al. 2020](#)). [Myrmecopterula](#) formed a distinct clade sister to *Pterula*, and this distinct clade was erected as a new genus to accommodate ant-associated taxa previously grouped in *Pterula* ([Leal-Dutra et al. 2020](#)). The type species is [Myrmecopterula moniliformis](#). The habit, shape, and colour of [Myrmecopterula](#) are very similar to *Pterula*, but it differs by having mycelial cords and subiculum from which the basidiocarps develop ([Leal-Dutra et al. 2020](#)). In comparison to other species in *Pterulaceae*, the species in this genus are characterized by bushy, pteruloid, white-cream to light-brown, and surface greyish basidiocarps, concolorous or stipe darker than the hymenophore, developing from cottony subiculum with mycelial cords; sterile stipe surface; dimitic hyphal system; relatively small basidiospores usually less than 7 µm wide ([Leal-Dutra et al. 2020](#)). Asexual morph is unknown. There are three species in this genus. It is presently unclear whether the existing mutualistic association found in [Myrmecopterula nudihortorum](#) and *M. velohortorum* is ancestral, suggesting that free-living taxa escaped the mutualism, or whether the free-living taxa are common amongst members of [Myrmecopterula](#) that were more recently evolved to a higher level of interdependence for [M. nudihortorum](#) and *M. Velohortorum* ([Leal-Dutra et al. 2020](#)). [Myrmecopterula](#) is currently placed in *Pterulaceae*, *Agaricales*, *Agaricomycetidae*, *Agaricomycetes*, *Agaricomycotina*, *Basidiomycota*.

### Reference

Leal-Dutra CA, Griffith GW, Neves MA, McLaughlin DJ, McLaughlin EG, Clasen LA, Dentinger BTM. 2020 – Reclassification of *Pterulaceae* Corner (*Basidiomycota: Agaricales*) introducing the ant-associated genus *Myrmecopterula* gen. nov., *Phaeopterula* Henn. and the corticioid *Radulomycetaceae* fam. nov. IMA FUNGUS. 11(2):1–24. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s43008-019-0022-6>

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Published online 2 December 2022