

NOTES ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF *SPHINCTRINA ANGLICA* AND ITS HOST IN POLAND

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We collected several specimens of *Protoparmelia hypotremella* van Herk, Spier & V. Wirth during lichenological investigations in the Las Bielański Nature Reserve in Warsaw 2009, and our detailed examination also turned up *Sphinctrina anglica* Nyl. in this material. *S. anglica* is an inconspicuous calicioid fungus characterized by short-stalked black apothecia. The species is probably a highly specialized parasite restricted to lichens of the genera *Protoparmelia* (Aptroot *et al.* 1997). *S. anglica* was known previously in Poland from only two older reports (Stein 1879; Czyżewska 1981; see also Czyżewska & Kukwa 2009). *P. hypotremella* has been recorded frequently but probably is still overlooked or not distinguished in Poland because its sterile thalli are fine and inconspicuous. These two interesting taxa are presented here.

Sphinctrina anglica Nyl.

For the species description see Löfgren and Tibell (1979) and Tibell (1999).

Sphinctrina anglica was first found in Poland by Stein (1879) in Pruszków near Opole (SW Poland). The second locality of the species was recorded by Czyżewska (1981) from the Niecka Włoszczowska basin in the central part of the country (Fig. 1). In both cases it was considered a lichenized fungus. The lichenicolous behavior of the species in Poland was first mentioned by Kukwa (2000; see also comments under the species by Czyżewska & Kukwa 2009).

The biology of *Sphinctrina anglica* was long unrecognized. According to recent reports it is an obligatory parasitic fungus occupying thalli of *Protoparmelia oleagina* and *P. hypotremella* (e.g., Aptroot *et al.* 1997; Kukwa 2000). Its occurrence depends on the habitat preferences of its host. *S. anglica* is reported mostly from lichens growing on the bark of trees, and also on wood (Santesson *et al.* 2004; Svensson *et al.* 2005; Spribile *et al.* 2008).

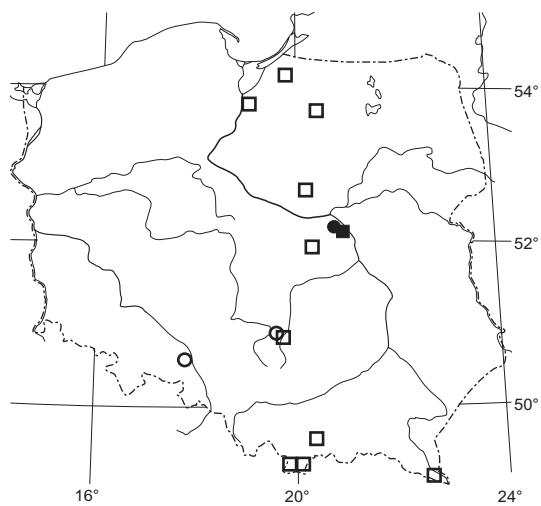


Fig. 1. Distribution of *Sphinctrina anglica* Nyl. and *Protoparmelia hypotremella* van Herk, Spier & Wirth in Poland: ○ – localities of *S. anglica* known from literature, ● – new locality of *S. anglica*, □ – localities of *P. hypotremella* known from literature, ■ – new locality of *P. hypotremella*.

Sphinctrina anglica is reported generally from Western and Central Europe and North America (Tibell 1994, 1999). It is also known from India (Saxena *et al.* 2007) and Africa (Giavarini & Purvis 2009). In Europe, besides Poland it has been reported from Austria (Hafellner & Türk 2004), the Czech Republic (Vězda & Liška 1999), Finland and Sweden (Santesson *et al.* 2004), Germany (Scholz 2000), Great Britain (Giavarini & Purvis 2009), the Netherlands (Aptroot *et al.* 1997), Romania (Ciurchea 2009), Spain (Llimona & Hladun 2001) and Ukraine (Kondratyuk *et al.* 1998).

SPECIMEN EXAMINED. POLAND. KOTLINA WARSZAWSKA BASIN: [ATPOL grid square De 16] Warsaw, Las Bielański Nature Reserve, forest section no. 6, 52°17'41"N, 20°57'23"E, oak-linden-hornbeam forest *Tilio-Carpinetum*, on thallus of *Protoparmelia hypotremella* on oak branch, 17 Oct. 2009, leg. P. Zaniewski (WA 17570, OLTC L-3406).

***Protoparmelia hypotremella* van Herk, Spier & V. Wirth**

For the species description see Aptroot *et al.* (1997) and Brodo and Aptroot (2005).

Protoparmelia hypotremella was known previously from ten localities in Poland (Fig. 1), distributed in the northern (Kubiak 2005; Kukwa 2005; Szymczyk & Zalewska 2008), central (Czyżewska 1981, 2003; Kukwa 2000; Kubiak 2009) and southern parts of the country (Kościelnia & Kisza 2006; Śliwa 2006; Czarnota & Wojnarowicz 2008).

Protoparmelia hypotremella is a toxotolerant crustose lichen, reported mostly on the bark of mature wayside trees. In Western Europe it is spreading very rapidly in favorable habitats (Aptroot *et al.* 1997). Interestingly, at the newly discovered localities of *P. hypotremella* in the Las Bielański Nature Reserve it was recorded exclusively on twigs and branches of old oaks. It seems that *P. hypotremella* is a regular constituent of canopy lichen communities (especially in old-growth forest stands). That habitat was rarely studied in the past, and this is probably why the species has not been recorded often. Associated species found with *P. hypotremella* include *Cladonia* sp., *Lecanora conizaeoides*, *Lepraria incana*,

Parmelia saxatilis, *P. sulcata* and *Scoliosporum sarothonnii*. Most of them are rather acidophilous lichens (van Herk 1999, 2002). This suggests that *P. hypotremella* found favorable conditions in the reserve due to acidification of the environment and the disappearance of species more sensitive to air pollution.

Protoparmelia hypotremella is known from Western and Central Europe as well as North America (Aptroot *et al.* 1997; Brodo & Aptroot 2005). In Europe, besides Poland it has been reported from Austria (Hafellner & Türk 2001), Belgium (Diederich & Sérusiaux 2000), Germany (Scholz 2000), France (Aptroot *et al.* 2001), the Netherlands (Aptroot *et al.* 2004), Switzerland (Clerc 2004) and Sweden (Santesson *et al.* 2004). The species is also known from Canary Islands (Boom 2007).

SPECIMENS EXAMINED. POLAND. KOTLINA WARSZAWSKA BASIN: [ATPOL grid square De 16], Warsaw, Las Bielański Nature Reserve, forest section no. 1, 52°17'59"N, 20°57'26"E, oak-linden-hornbeam forest *Tilio-Carpinetum*, on fallen branch of *Quercus* sp., 12 June 2009, leg. D. Kubiak (OLTC L-3405); ibid., forest section no. 6, 52°17'39"N, 20°57'17"E, *Tilio-Carpinetum*, on fallen branch of *Quercus robur*, 17 Oct. 2009, leg. P. Zaniewski (WA 17571, WA 17572, OLTC L-3389); ibid., forest section no. 9, 52°17'20"N, 20°57'59"E, *Tilio-Carpinetum*, on fallen branch of *Quercus* sp., 30 May 2009, leg. D. Kubiak (OLTC L-3369); ibid., forest section no. 11, 52°17'15"N, 20°58'00"E, *Tilio-Carpinetum*, on fallen branch of *Quercus robur*, 8 Nov. 2009, leg. P. Zaniewski (WA 17573); ibid., forest section no. 12, 52°17'13"N, 20°58'16"E, *Tilio-Carpinetum*, on fallen branch of *Quercus robur*, 17 Oct. 2009, leg. P. Zaniewski (WA 17574).

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