



Fig 2. Spores of both cryptic species among some cellular debris. Note the prominent ornamentation, readily shown by the scanning microscope. The angles of the spores are not always evident.

A new pink-spored genus; two new cryptic species . . .

Traditionally, *Entoloma rhodoclylix* has been classified with entolomas because of its pink, angulated spores; but physiologically, ecologically, and morphologically, this saprophytic wood-dweller has nothing in common with the mycorrhizal genus *Entoloma*. Angular pink spores are not sufficient logical or biological reasons to lump together otherwise disparate species into one genus.

Therefore a new genus is proposed, *Lichenopropinqua* Voitk, since the specimen grows near lichens but has no relationship with them (Fig. 1, page 1 of this issue). For the English-speaking world it not only makes a passing reference to the pinque spore color, but also makes it clear that this species has no connection to the pink-spored entolomas, i.e. *Lichenopropinqua*, which, translated from the classical Latin, means "like no pro (former) pinks." The former species epithet, *rhodoclylix*, meaning "small cap," must also be rejected—as *nomen obfuscatissimum*, because "small" is a relative term requiring a value judgment. [See *Rules of Nomenclature*, Bruxelles, 1948, No 673, §A(17) ii, §§vi-22, "such names should be eschewed by the serious scientific community. . . ."]

On microscopic examination, the

New Mushrooms, cont. from page 2

Strandemo. Mr. Strandemo, who describes himself proudly as a self-styled Norwegian bachelor farmer, found the mammoth morel growing beside "the large elm over yonder" but had to rely on his tractor to bring it back for supper. Dean was "excited to see the second biggest morel" of his entire life.

spores of this former species are seen to have either five or six angles (Fig. 2). In other situations, species have been differentiated by far lesser than the number of angles of their spores. Quite clearly, then, this is not a single species but one mushroom host, harboring two separate species. Two new species are proposed: *Lichenopropinqua pentangulospora* Voitk and *Lichenopropinqua sexangulospora* Voitk.

Because it is undesirable to give any one mushroom two names (the others get jealous), the concept of predominant species is introduced. This is the species of which the host fruiting body is more full. The predominant species can be readily determined by use of the spore angle index: count the number of five-angled and six-angled spores in 20 randomly chosen spores. Divide the former into the latter. A value > 1 is *L. pentangulospora* Voitk and < 1 is *L. sexangulospora* Voitk. If you are very busy, count only two spores, multiply by ten, then do the division as above. In case of tie, indicated by a spore angle index of 1.0000, count one additional spore.

This is the first report of such an ultimately cryptic species, whose fruiting bodies are a chimera of two distinct species within the same mushroom.

Note: The holotype, kleptotype and neophyte of both species were sent to Skew Gardens/Les Jardins Skew in Londres, along with the original field notes and Latin diagnosis. These are now lost under a pillar of fungi.

—Andrus Voitk
Humber Village, Newfoundland

Another striking morel—well three different ones, actually—were found during the big Gary Lincoff Foray in Pennsylvania last year. *Morchella technicolorensis* (G, below). John Plischke tells me three subspecies are known, and for the first time all three were found during the 2006 foray. According to experts in the area, these morels occur only near the town of Kittanning in western PA, and fruit only in the spent compost piles from a long-abandoned mushroom farm that used to commercially raise *Psilocybe* mushrooms for medical research at the Hershey Medical Center.

Many folks around the country reported mass fruitings of giant puffballs in 2006. Maggie Rogers sent in this photo taken in her back yard of a truly gigantic *Calvatia gigantea* (F, page 2). She recently told me that the huge mushroom dried nicely and has since been hollowed out and turned into a storage locker for all her mycological books. (This editor wonders if "Fungal Cave Books" will soon go by a different name!)

The rarely seen *Helvella lacunosa* var. *sinestrii* (B, page 1) was found during a midnight foray on Halloween night 2006. This sinister looking ascomycete certainly lives up to its name! A big THANKS to all who sent in photos of their spectacular finds!

—Britt Bunyard



Courtesy of J. Plischke, III.

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1

Lichenopropinqua pentangulospora
Voitk and Lichenopropinqua sexangulospora Voitk fruiting together as one on a
lichen-covered branch of *Abies terranovense*. (See story, page 19.)