***Valsaria insitiva* (Tode) Ces. & De Not. – AEB 1344 (= PDD 117261)**

Substrate: dead stem of *Tecomanthe speciosa*

Collection site: bordering bush area in residential property, Kelson, Lower Hutt, New Zealand

Collection date: 10 October 2021

Collector and Identifier: Ann Bell

Voucher materials: dried herbarium material AEB 1344 (= PDD 117261) accompanied by several Shear's mounting fluid (SMF) semipermanent slide mounts of fresh hymenial squashes; several digital photos of asci and paraphyses by Dan Mahoney. Brief comments.

Comments: The collection is a reasonable match to *Valsaria insitiva* – the type species of the genus *Valsaria*. For a treatment of the genus and a key to its species, see Jaklitsch WM, Fournier J, Dai DQ, Hyde KD & Voglmayr H. 2015. *Valsaria* and the *Valsariales*. Fungal Divers. 73(1): 159-202. doi: 10.1007/s13225-015-0330-0.

Their description & illustrations for *V. insitiva* are reproduced here and on the next page:

Sexual morph: Stromata pseudostromatic, immersed-erumpent, mostly gregarious to coalescing into clusters ranging from narrowly elongate and up to 13×2.5 mm to irregularly shaped and up to 15×8 mm; pustular, lenticular to broadly conical or subglobose with flattened base, (0.3–) 0.7–1.5(−1.8) mm high, 0.8–1.7 mm diam, enclosed on top and/or at the sides by a black, 20–50 µm thick pseudoparenchymatous crust, blackening the wood surface between adjacent stromata. **Ectostroma** forming 0.4–1.3 mm broad and 0.2–1 mm high sub- or inversely stellate structures of 3–5 grey, brown to black segments around the ostiolar openings; tissue beneath the black crust pseudoparenchymatous; basal pseudostromatic tissue prosenchymatous, grey, of hyaline, 2–4 µm wide hyphae, mixed with bark cells. **Ostiolar openings** inconspicuous, less commonly necks arising as conical, sulcate, 0.4–0.7 mm high, black papillae. **Ascomata** 0.25–0.45 mm high, 0.18–0.4 mm diam, monostichously arranged in valsoid configuration, 5–8(−12) per individual cluster, vertical to oblique, subglobose to flask-shaped, laterally collapsed when dry; peridium 14–25 µm thick, pseudoparenchymatous, brown. **Ostiolar necks** long, cylindrical, converging and often fusing, i.e. the ostiolar opening containing 1–3(−5) necks; interior periphysate. **Paraphyses** numerous, simple, unbranched, tapering upwards, apically free, 1.5–5 µm wide. **Asci** (96–)106–143(−158)×(10–)11–14(−18.5) µm (n=30), bitunicate but without obvious fissitunicate dehiscence, cylindrical, containing 6–8 uniseriate ascospores; stipe short, truncate; apex containing an ocular chamber and a pulvinate ring (3.8–)4.5–6.0(−6.3)×(2.0–)2.5–3.5(−3.8) µm (n=30), staining in Congo Red. **Ascospores** (12–)15–20(−22)×(6.5–)7.5–9.8(−11.7) µm, l/w=(1.6–)1.8–2.2(−2.4) (n=130), ellipsoid, dark brown, 2-celled, with a dark central, not or hardly constricted septum thicker than the wall; surface finely tuberculate.

Fig. 5 *Valsaria insitiva*. **a** Ectostroma in face view. **b** Projecting ectostromatic structures. **c** Transverse section at the ostiolar level. **d, e** Transverse section at the ascomatal level (**d** immature). **f–i**. Vertical stroma sections (**f** compound stroma; **h** showing fused ostioles; **i** showing peridium and adjacent prosenchymatous stroma). **j–l** Asci. **m–p** Ascospores (**o, p**. showing surface ornamentation). **q** Apical rings and apically free paraphyses in *Congo red*.

Scale bars: a, b, e, f=0.5 mm. c, g=0.3 mm. d=0.7 mm. h=0.2 mm. i=30 µm. j–l=15 µm. m, o–q=7 µm. n=10 µm

***Valsaria insitiva* AEB 1344. Hymenial squash from freshly collected field material. Note the fertile asci and paraphyses. Shear's mounting fluid (SMF) mount, using the 40X objective and brightfield microscopy.**

***Valsaria insitiva* AEB 1344. Hymenial squash from freshly collected field material. Note the fertile asci and paraphyses. Shear's mounting fluid (SMF) mount, using the 40X objective and phase microscopy.**

***Valsaria insitiva* AEB 1344. A–D. Fertile asci from freshly collected field material. All from Shear's mounting fluid (SMF) mounts, using the 100X objective. A,B. Same ascus: A) Brightfield, B) Phase. C,D. Same ascus: C) Brightfield, D) Phase.**