



Morphological description and new record of *Panaeolus acuminatus* (Agaricales) in Brazil

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Abstract

Panaeolus acuminatus is described and illustrated based on fresh specimens collected from Northeast Brazil. This is the second known report of this species for the country, since it was already reported in 1930 by Rick. The species is characterized by the acuminate, pileus with hygrophanous surface, basidiospores measuring $11.5\text{--}16 \times 5.5\text{--}11 \mu\text{m}$ and slender, non-capitate cheilocystidia. A full description accompanies photographs, line drawings and taxonomic discussion.

Key words – Agaricomycotina – Basidiomycota – biodiversity – dark-spored – Panaeoloideae – Rick

Introduction

Species of *Panaeolus* (Fr.) Quél. are commonly recognized by their typically coprophilous or nitrophilous habitat, slender fruit-body with cartilaginous stipe and spotted gills originated by the maturation pattern of the basidiospores, in which they are distinctly smoky to dark brown, smooth, thick-walled, not discoloring in sulphuric acid and with a well-marked apical germ-pore (Watling & Gregory 1987, Gerhardt 1996). This genus has worldwide distribution (Gerhardt 1996) but uncertain taxonomic position (Tóth et al. 2013).

In Brazil, *Panaeolus* and its allies genera (*Panaeolina* Maire, *Copelandia* Bres. and *Anellaria* P. Karst.) were poorly documented and the occasional records are known from South, Southeast, Midwest and Northeastern regions (Maia et al. 2015). Rick (1930) described *P. lignicola* Rick., and reported *P. acuminatus* (P. Kumm.) Quél., *P. atro-sanguineus* Henn, *P. campanulatus* (Bull.) Quél., *P. solidipes* (Peck) Sacc., *P. semiovatus* var. *phalaenarum* (Fr.) Ew. Gerhardt [as *P. phalaenarum* (Fr.) Quél.], *P. fimicola* (Fr.) Quél. and *P. papilionaceus* (Bull.) Quél., all from Rio Grande do Sul state. However some species need to be revised, since these names might correspond to misidentifications, synonyms or missed specimens (Silva-Filho et al. 2019). Stijve & De Meijer (1993) recorded *P. antillarum* (Fr.) Dennis and *P. cinctulus* (Bolton)

Sacc. from Paraná State. De Meijer (2001) in his first macrofungi checklist recorded *P. papilionaceus* (Bull.) Quél. from the state of Paraná. Sobestiansky (2005) recorded *P. antillarum* from Santa Catarina and *P. cinctulus* and *P. papilionaceus* from Rio Grande do Sul. De Meijer (2006) in his second checklist reported *P. aff. reticulatus* Overh. also from Paraná. More recently *Panaeolus rickenii* Hora was recorded from Mato Grosso do Sul, the first occurrence from Midwest (Bononi 2017). More recently, *P. antillarum* and *P. papilionaceus* were recorded again from Paraná, together with the description of *P. sylvaticus* Silva-Filho & Cortez (Silva-Filho et al. 2019). Synonyms of other species also were reported from Brazil: *Panaeolus foenicisecii* (Pers.) J. Schröt. (currently a member of *Panaeolina*) by Stijve & De Meijer (1993), and *P. cambodginiensis* Oláh & R. Heim and *P. aff. tropicalis* Olah, (synonym of species of *Copelandia*) by De Meijer (2006). Recently, *Panaeolus cyanescens* (Berk. & Broome) Sacc. synonym of *Copelandia cyanescens* (Berk. & Broome) Singer was recorded from Paraná and Pernambuco (De Meijer 2001, Wartchow et al. 2010, Silva-Filho et al. 2018). From northeast Brazil, only *Panaeolus antillarum* is known (Alves & Cavalcanti 1996, Melo et al. 2016).

Here we report the second occurrence of *P. acuminatus* from Brazil, and a revision of the Rick's exsiccates of *P. acuminatus* and recent collection of *P. rickenii* from Brazil described as a variety of *P. acuminatus*. The species collected in northeast of Brazil and represents a new record in tropical region of America.

Materials & Methods

The specimen was found on sandy soil in a grassland of an urban area (5°54'59.9" S and 35°13'02.9" W), in the municipality of Parnamirim, located in the metropolitan region of Natal, Rio Grande do Norte (Fig. 1). Methods for analysis and description of agarics were made following Singer (1986) and macro- and microstructures were described according to terminology used by Largent (1986) and Largent et al. (1977). To determine the names and color codes we used Kernerup & Wanscher (1978).

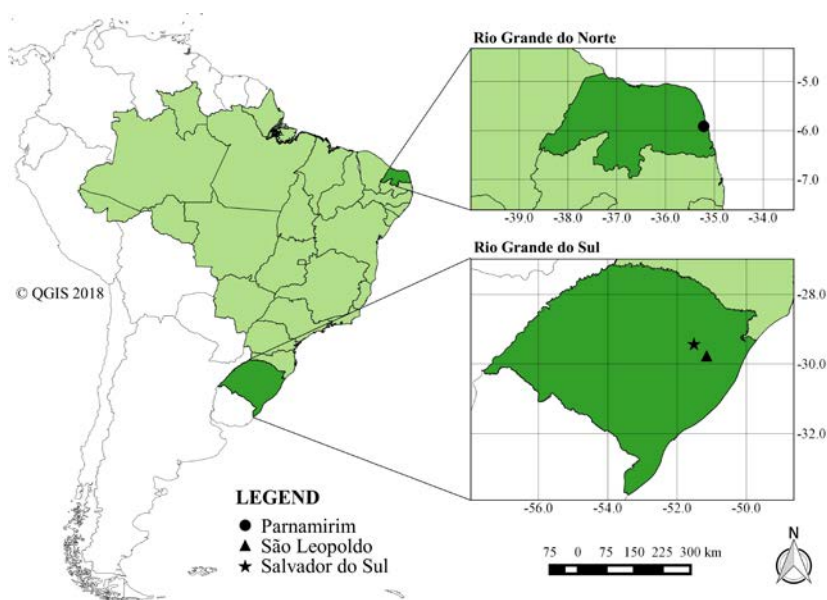


Fig. 1 – Map showing the collection site of the new report to Rio Grande do Norte, Parnamirim, collected in 2015, and the two collections of Rick to Rio Grande do Sul, São Leopoldo, collected in 1929 and Salvador do Sul, collected in 1944.

The length × width in face-view × width in side-view of basidiospores were measured; the length of the basidia were measured excluding sterigmata. The value of Q was calculated as the quotient between the length and width, 'Qm' is the value averaged from 'Q' and 'n' is the number of measured basidiospores/number of analyzed basidiomata/number of collections (Bas 1969).

Specimens were deposited at the Fungal Collection of the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN-Fungos). Identification was made through keys proposed for the genus (Ola'h 1969, Watling & Gregory 1987, Young 1989, Gerhardt 1996) and by comparison with Rick materials loaned by the herbarium PACA (Thiers continuously updated). Generic taxonomical concepts followed Gerhardt (1996).

Results

Panaeolus acuminatus (P. Kumm.) Quél., Mém. Soc. Émul. Montbéliard 5: 257 (1872). Figs 2–3
≡ *Agaricus acuminatus* Schaeff. Fung. Bavar. Palat. nasc. 4: 44, t. 202 (1774).

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Pileus 13–15 mm diam., conic-campanulate, with a prominent rounded apex, surface smooth, dry, hygrophanous, margin slightly crenate, brownish-beige (6E3) to light brown (6D5). Lamellae adnexed, ventricose, brownish grey (5F2) with darker spots, crowded, narrow, lamellulae not observed. Stipe 20–70 × 1.8–2 mm, central, equal, cylindrical, fistulose, surface slightly longitudinally-striated, consistency cartilaginous, ranging from brown (5C4) to brownish orange (5B6). Context thin (< 1 mm), pale yellow (4A3). Veil absent. Spore print dark grey brown (1F1).

Basidiospores 11.5–14.5 × 5.5–9.5 × 5.5–8 µm, (average = 12.6 × 8.6 × 7.3 µm, Q = 1.2–1.7, Qm = 1.4, n = 30/2/2), limoniform to sublimoniform, rhomboid in face view, ellipsoid in side-view, smooth, thick-walled (0.6–1.4 µm), strongly flattened, apically truncate by a central germ-pore, dark brown in KOH (Figs 2c, 3d). Basidia 15–20.5 × 8–11.5 µm, broadly clavate to cylindric-clavate, 1-2-4 spored, predominantly 2-spored, hyaline (Fig. 3e). Pleurocystidia absent. Lamellae edge sterile. Cheilocystidia 24.5–33.1 × 7–8 µm, slender, slightly lageniform, slightly flexuous, abundant, thin walled, hyaline. Lamellae trama regular with filamentous to inflated hyphae 6.5–14.5 µm diam., thin-walled, hyaline. Subhymenium cellular composed by isodiametric cells 3–7.5 × 3–7 µm, thin-walled, hyaline, light brown. Pileipellis an epithelium composed by isodiametric to broadly clavate cells, 11.5–43 × 11.5–37.5, thin walled, hyaline (Fig. 3b). Pileocystidia 10.5–35.5 × 5.5–8.5, cylindrical to slightly lageniform, sometimes with subcapitate apex, scattered, thin-walled, predominately brownish, sometimes hyaline. Hypodermium a layer of interwoven, filamentous hyphae, 1.5–4.5 µm diam., anticlinal, smooth, thin-walled, light brown. Pileus trama composed by interwoven hyphae 5.5–16.5 µm diam., anticlinal, thin walled hyaline. Stipitipellis a cutis, composed of filamentous hyphae 1.5–6 µm diam., smooth, hyaline. Stipe trama regular, with longitudinally oriented hyphae 4.5–12.5 µm diam., smooth, hyaline. Caulocystidia 18.5–39 × 3.5–12 µm, lageniform, slender, slightly flexuous, frequent to abundant, thin walled, hyaline. (Fig. 3a). Clamp connections absent in all tissues examined.

Habitat – Scattered to gregarious, in a lawn without herbivorous dung, and on sandy soil in a sheltered location near urban area.

Distribution – Worldwide: Africa (Pegler 1977), Asia (Vrinda et al. 1999), Europe (Watling & Gregory 1987, Gerhardt 1996), North America (Morgan 1907), South America (Rick 1930, Niveiro & Albertó 2012), and Australia (Cleland 1934).

Material examined – Brazil, Rio Grande do Norte, Parnamirim, Parque das Árvores, on grassland, 24 April 2015, M.D. Xavier MDX-001, (UFRN-Fungos 3072).

Additional material examined – *Panaeolus acuminatus*: Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul, Salvador do Sul, São Salvador, 19 January 1944, J. Rick s/n (PACA 20917); and São Leopoldo collected in 1929, J. Rick s/n (PACA 14494); *Panaeolus rickenii*: Brazil, Mato Grosso do sul, Maracaju Mountains, Corguinho, 12 November 2014, A.K.M. Oliveira et. al. (SP466286).

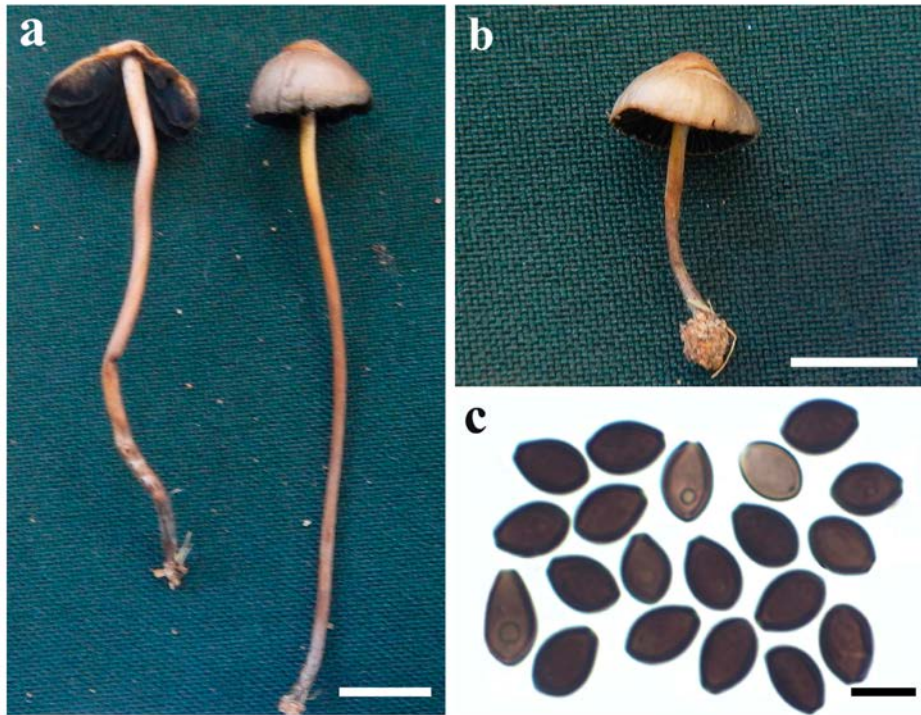


Fig. 2 – *Panaeolus acuminatus* (UFRN-Fungos 3072): a-b Basidiomata. c Basidiospores. Scale bars: a-b = 10 mm, c = 10 μ m.

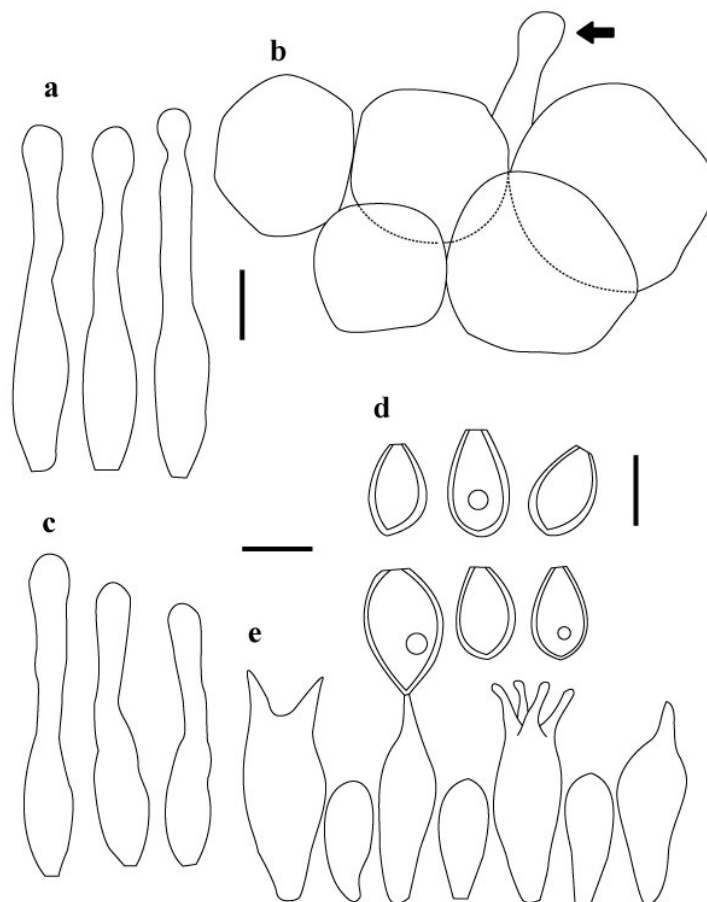


Fig. 3 – *Panaeolus acuminatus* (UFRN-Fungos 3072): a Cheilocystidia. b Pileipellis showing the epithelium structure with one pileocystidium indicated with an arrow. c Caulocystidia. d Basidiospores. e Basidia and basidioles. Scale bars: a-e = 10 μ m.

Discussion

Panaeolus acuminatus was originally described by Schaeffer (1774) as *Agaricus acuminatus*. However, there are no exsiccates associated with the name, leaving only the Schaeffer's illustration as a lectotype (Gerhardt 1996). The species has many synonyms. It was also named as *Coprinarius acuminatus* (Quél.) Quél., *Stropharia acuminata* (Scop.) Murrill. and *Agaricus carbonarius* Batsch. Other authors described the same species under other names, all also synonyms. Junghuhn described in 1830 *A. caliginosus* Jungh., in which was interpreted later as *P. caliginosus* (Jungh.) by Gillet (1878). In addition, the epithet *caliginosus* was recombined to *Chalymnota caliginosa* (Jungh.) P. Karst. and *Coprinarius caliginosus* (Jungh.) Quél. in 1879 and 1886 respectively. They also are synonyms of *P. acuminatus*. Unfortunately the material described by Junghuhn has not been found so far (Gerhardt 1996). Gerhardt (1996) reviewed many specimens belonging to this species and proposed an epitype (Gerhardt 83049) for *P. acuminatus*, deposited in Botanisches Museum Berlin.

Our specimens agree with in many aspects the descriptions provided by Gerhardt (1996) due its acuminate, very pointed or rounded pileus, hygrophanous pileus surface, dark-brown flattened basidiospores, absence of pleurocystidia and slender cheilocystidia (Gerhardt 1996). We also compared our description with the ones performed by Watling & Gregory (1987) and Gerhardt (1996) as shown in the Table 1.

Table 1 Morphologic comparison among Brazilian collection of *P. acuminatus*, Gerhardt (1996) and Watling & Gregory (1987).

	This study	Gerhardt (1996)	Watling & Gregory (1987)
Pileus size	13–15 mm	10–40 mm	20–40 mm
Pileus shape	Conic-campanulate, with a rounded apex	Convex, with pronounced pointed to rounded apex	Never parabolic, with pointed or rounded apex
Stipe size	20–70 × 1.8–2 mm	30–25 × 1.5–3 mm	35–50 × 2–3 mm
Basidiospore size	11.5–14.5 × 5.5–9.5 × 5.5–8 µm	13–15 × 9–11 × 7–8 µm	12–15 × 9–11 × 7–9 µm
Number of sterigmata	mostly 2	2 and 4	4
Basidia size	15–20.5 × 8–11.5 µm	25–30 × 10–13 µm	27.5–35(–40) × 8.5–12.5 µm
Cheilocystidia size	24.5–33.1 × 7–8 µm	Not informed	25–35 × 8.5–12.5 µm
Cheilocystidia shape	Slightly lageniform, slightly flexuous	Slightly lageniform	Filiform-cylindric, slightly swollen towards the apex

Furthermore, we examined two Rick's collections, PACA 20917 and PACA 14494. The tissues did not rehydrate satisfactorily. However, the identification of the species was confirmed from the characteristics of the basidiospores [limoniform to sublimoniform, rhomboid in face view, ellipsoid in side-view, smooth, thick-walled (0.6–1.4 µm), strongly flattened, apically truncate by a central germ-pore; basidiospores size; 10.5–15 (–15.5) × 5–9 × 6.5–11 µm], and the chemical reaction, on which they do not discolor in sulphuric acid.

According to Gerhardt (1996), *P. acuminatus* belongs to subgen. *Panaeolus* sect. *Laevispora* sensu Gerhardt (1996), due to dry, hygrophanous pileus, lack of veil remnants, smooth basidiospores, absence of metuloids and cheilocystidia with yellowish droplets or content. Among the species of the sect., *P. bernicis* A.M. Young, *P. fimicola* (Pers.) Gillet and *P. microsporus* Ols' & Cailleux have sulphidia (Gerhardt 1996). *Panaeolus fraxinophilus* A.H. Sm. is a lignicolous species that grows on *Fraxinus* sp. (Gerhardt 1996). *Panaeolus alcidis* M.M. Moser and *P. subfirmus* P. Karst have larger basidiospores, measuring 16–18 × 11–12.5 × 8.5–10 µm and 16–20 × 10–11 × 9–10 µm respectively, while *P. reticulatus* Overh. has smaller ones 8.5–11 × 6.5–8 × 5–6 µm (Gerhardt 1996). *Panaeolus cinctulus* (Bolton) Sacc. resembles only the flattened

spores (7–8 μm in side view), but it is easily distinguished by having much fleshier basidiomes and larger and broader often capitated cheilocystidia 30–50 \times 8–12 μm (Gerhardt 1996). *Panaeolus paludosus* Cleland is the most similar species, in which also shares the dark, hygrophanous and campanulate pileus tending to be hemispherical to convex, without veil remnants. However, *P. paludosus* has rhomboid transparent basidiospores (11.4–14 \times 9–10 \times 6–7 μm) and more bulbous cheilocystidia 25–40 \times 7–10 μm (Gerhardt 1996).

Panaeolus rickenii is other similar species distinguished by Hora (1960) based in collections with capitate-clavate cheilocystidia. This species was described as a variety of *P. acuminatus* by Gerhardt (1996), although Watling & Gregory (1987) considered as an autonomous taxon. More recently, *P. rickenii* was reported from Mato Grosso do Sul by Bononi et al. (2017), and we checked its exsiccate SP 466286. The Brazilian collection of *P. rickenii* has larger 20–30 mm and non-acuminated pileus (see the picture in Bononi et al. 2017: 364), light brown to brown basidiospores, basidia predominantly with four sterigmata, and sphaeropenduculate to ventricose-fusoid then cylindrical with mucronated apex cheilocystidia (20–34 \times 9–14 μm). On the other hand, our collections of *P. acuminatus* presents smaller (13–15 mm diam.) and slightly acuminated pileus, brown basidiospores, basidia predominantly bi-spored and lageniform thin-walled cheilocystidia 24.5–33.1 \times 7–8 μm .

There are two records of *P. acuminatus* in South America: one from Argentina and another from the subtropical region of and Brazil (Rick 1930, Niveiro & Albertó 2012). Now we recorded for the first time Northeast of Brazil, proving that in South America, this species is not restricted to subtropical regions. In addition, *P. acuminatus* and its related species, probably form a species-complex that need a molecular and phylogenic analysis for understand the positioning of the species and the validity of some of the names used in their taxonomy.

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