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**Two new species of *Pluteus* section *Celluloderma* from the Dominican Republic**ALFREDO JUSTO<sup>1\*</sup>, ELISEO BATTISTIN<sup>2</sup> & CLAUDIO ANGELINI<sup>3</sup><sup>1</sup>*Clark University. Biology Department, 950 Main St., Worcester 01610 MA USA*<sup>2</sup>*Natural History Museum, Corso Italia 63, Valdagno 36078 Italy*<sup>3</sup>*Via Tulipifero 9, Porcia 33080 Italy*\* CORRESPONDENCE TO: [ajusto@clarku.edu](mailto:ajusto@clarku.edu)

**ABSTRACT**— Two new species of *Pluteus* sect. *Celluloderma* collected in the Dominican Republic are described based on morphological and molecular (nrITS) characters. *Pluteus crenulatus* is characterized by the sulcate crenulate margin of the pileus, clavate cheilo- and caulocystidia, and absence of pleurocystidia. *Pluteus stenotrichus* is characterized by the presence of very narrow and internally septate cells in the pileipellis.

**KEY WORDS**— biodiversity, Caribbean, phylogeny, *Pluteaceae*, taxonomy

**Introduction**

The genus *Pluteus* Fr. (*Pluteaceae*, *Agaricales*) has been the focus of recent molecular phylogenetic studies (Menolli et al. 2010; Justo et al. 2011a,b), which essentially support the traditional subdivision of the genus in three sections (*Pluteus*, *Celluloderma* Fayod, and *Hispidoderma* Fayod) but with some rearrangements. Sect. *Celluloderma* still accommodates all species with non-metuloid hymenial cystidia and a pileipellis arranged as an hymeniderm or epithelium composed mostly of clavate or spheropedunculate elements (intermixed or not with elongated cells) but now, based on molecular data, also includes taxa with a cutis-type pileipellis (previously assigned to sect. *Villosi* Schreurs & Vellinga or *Hispidoderma*) or with distinct partial veil (previously assigned to *Chamaeota* (W.G. Sm.) Earle) (Menolli et al. 2010; Justo et al. 2011a,b; Vizzini & Ercole 2011).

Here we describe two new *Pluteus* species recently collected in the Dominican Republic. Morphological and molecular (nrITS) data support their inclusion in sect. *Celluloderma*. Both taxa are compared with morphologically similar species and their phylogenetic position is discussed.

## Materials & methods

Collections were studied using standard procedures for morphological examination of *Pluteus* (e.g., Justo & Castro 2007, Minnis & Sundberg 2010). Descriptive morphological terms follow Vellinga (1988). The notation [30, 2, 1] indicates that measurements were made of 30 basidiospores from 2 basidiocarps in 1 collection. Color codes are from Munsell Soil-Color Charts (Munsell Color 2009). The following abbreviations are used in the descriptions: avl for average length, avw for average width, Q for the length/width quotient and avQ for average quotient.

Standard procedures for DNA isolation, PCR, and sequencing were applied (e.g., Justo et al. 2011a,b). The “nuclear ribosomal internal transcribed spacers 1 and 2 including the 5.8S region” is abbreviated as nrITS. The final dataset includes sect. *Celluloderma* nrITS sequences generated by Justo et al. (2011b), additional sequences generated by the first author, and sequences currently available in GenBank (mostly originated by O’Brien et al. 2005, Matheny et al. 2006, Midgley et al. 2007, Malysheva et al. 2009, Menolli et al. 2010). All accession numbers and sequence geographic origins are given in FIG. 1. Sequences were aligned using MAFFT version 6 (<http://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/server/>; Katoh & Toh 2008) with the Q-INS-i option, and alignments were manually corrected using MacClade 4.05 (Maddison & Maddison 2002) before deposition in TreeBASE (<http://purl.org/phylo/treebase/phyloids/study/TB2:S12007>). A Maximum Likelihood analysis was run using the RAXML servers with 100 rapid bootstrap replicates (<http://phylobench.vital-it.ch/raxml-bb/index.php>; Stamatakis et al. 2008). *Pluteus cervinus* (Schaeff.) P. Kumm. and *P. petasatus* (Fr.) Gillet (both sect. *Pluteus*) were used as outgroup taxa.

## Results

The phylogenetic position of the new taxa described here is highlighted in FIG. 1 and discussed in detail under Taxonomy. Sequence identifications marked with “\*\*\*” (which require further attention but fall outside the scope of this paper) are listed here to avoid causing further taxonomic confusion in GenBank: (i) “*Pluteus* cf. *nanus*” (HM562046) and “*P. nanus*” (JF908611) probably represent *P. cinereofuscus* J.E. Lange; (ii) “*Pluteus cinereofuscus*” (JF908616) is part of the *Pluteus nanus* (Pers.) P. Kumm. species complex; (iii) “*Pluteus cervinus*” (JF908623) represents a taxon close to *Pluteus ephebeus* (Fr.) Gillet; (iv) “*Pluteus galeroideus*” (JF908610, JF908609) probably represents *Pluteus chrysophlebius* (Berk. & M.A. Curtis) Sacc.; (v) “*Pluteus boudieri*” (JF908627) represents *Pluteus phlebophorus* (Ditmar) P. Kumm.; (vi) *Pluteus insidiosus* (JF908626) falls within collections morphologically assignable to *Pluteus thomsonii* (Berk. & Broome) Dennis.

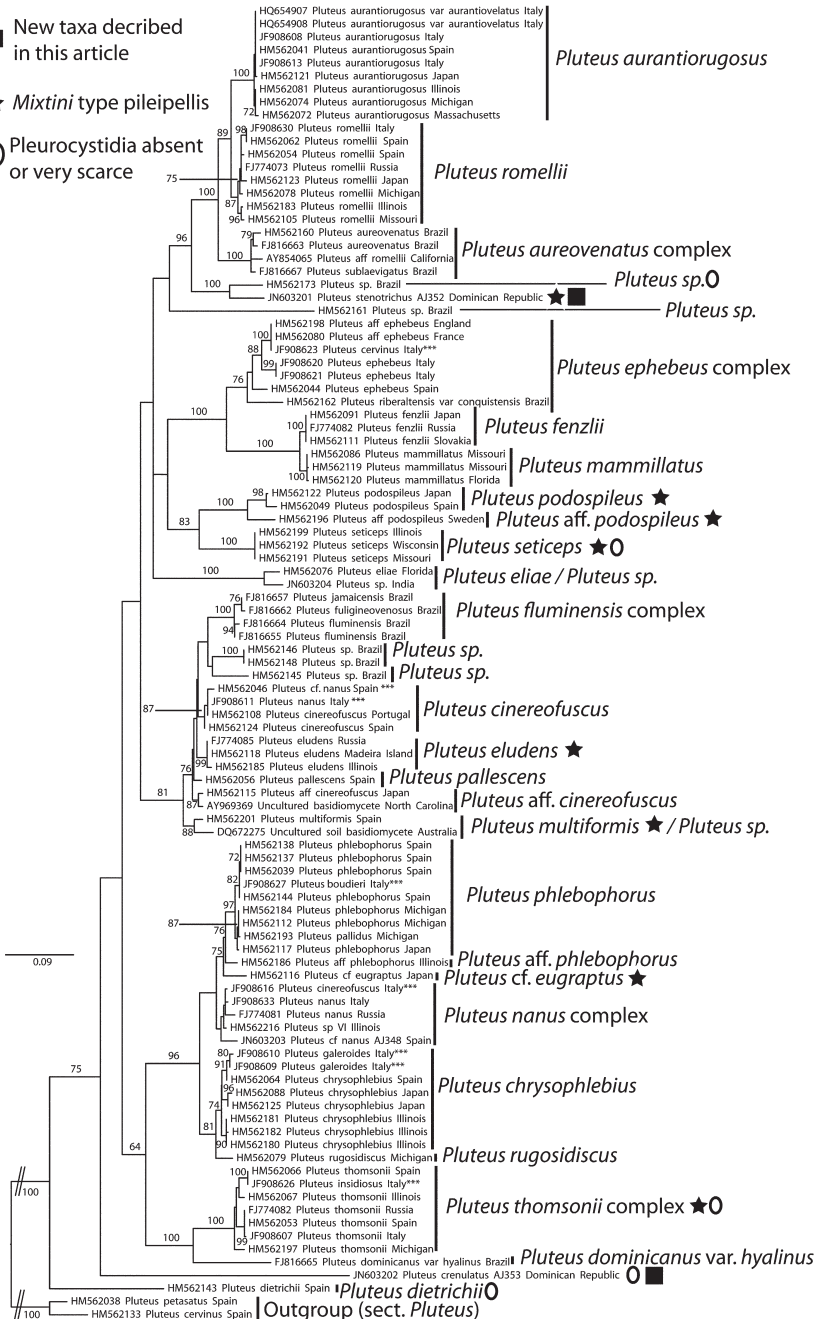
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FIGURE 1. Best tree from the Maximum Likelihood analysis of *Pluteus* sect. *Celluloderma*. Bootstrap values  $\geq 70\%$  are shown on or below the branches. Root length has been reduced to facilitate graphical representation.

■ New taxa described  
in this article

★ *Mixtini* type pileipellis

○ Pleurocystidia absent  
or very scarce



## Taxonomy

*Pluteus crenulatus* Justo, Battistin & Angelini, sp. nov.

FIG. 2

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Similar to *Pluteus tucumanus*, also with a sulcate pileus with crenulate margin, but differing in broader spores, clavate cheilo- and caulocystidia, and absence of pleurocystidia

TYPE: Dominican Republic, Prov. Puerto Plata, Sosua, Unión, 17 Jan 2011, leg. C. Angelini, coll. AJ353 (Holotype MICH; GenBank nrITS JN603202. Isotype MCVE 27198).

ETYMOLOGY: *crenulatus* refers to the distinctive crenulate pileus margin.

PILEUS 20–40 mm, convex to plano-convex, with a broad umbo, deeply sulcate in the outer half; surface smooth or minutely granulose at center, granulose towards the margin; brown, darker at center [7.5YR 3/4, 4/6] and paler towards margin [7.5YR 5/6, 5/8, 6/6] where it alternates brown and whitish zones, not hygrophanous, margin distinctly crenulate, white. LAMELLAE crowded, free, ventricose;  $\leq 4$  mm broad; white when young, later pink with flocculose whitish edges. STIPE 30–50  $\times$  2–4 mm, cylindrical, slightly broadened at base; white or white-cream; smooth or pruinose. CONTEXT in stipe and pileus white. SMELL indistinct. TASTE not recorded. SPORE PRINT not recorded, probably pink.

BASIDIOSPORES [30, 2, 1] 4.5–5.5(–6.0)  $\times$  3.9–5.0(–5.5)  $\mu\text{m}$ ,  $\text{avl} \times \text{avw} = 4.9 \times 4.2$   $\mu\text{m}$ ,  $Q = 1.00$ – $1.26$ ,  $\text{av}Q = 1.17$ , globose to broadly ellipsoid. BASIDIA 20–35  $\times$  9–12  $\mu\text{m}$ , 4-spored, clavate or narrowly utriform. PLEUROCYSTIDIA absent. LAMELLAR EDGE sterile, completely covered with cystidia. CHELOCYSTIDIA 24–73  $\times$  12–34  $\mu\text{m}$ , (narrowly) clavate, a few narrowly utriform; colorless; with thin, smooth walls; crowded, forming a well-developed strip. PILEIPELLIS a hymeniderm with transitions towards and epithelium; individual elements 29–61  $\times$  14–49  $\mu\text{m}$ , mostly clavate or spheropedunculate, a few narrowly utriform, mucronate, or with basal septum; filled with brown intracellular pigment, evenly dissolved or more rarely with pigment condensations; with thin, smooth walls. STIPITPELLIS a cutis; hyphae 4–13  $\mu\text{m}$  wide, cylindrical, colorless or with brown pigment; with thin, smooth walls. CAULOCYSTIDIA 38–51  $\times$  17–31  $\mu\text{m}$ , (narrowly) clavate, some multiseptate; hyaline or with brown intracellular pigment, some with additional incrusting pigment; with thin to slightly thickened (less than 1  $\mu\text{m}$ ), smooth walls; all over stipe surface in tightly packed clusters. CLAMP CONNECTIONS absent in all tissues.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION—Gregarious, on a fallen log in broad-leaved forest, January. Known only from the type locality in the Dominican Republic.

COMMENTS—The deeply sulcate pileus with a crenulate margin is the most distinctive macroscopic feature of *P. crenulatus*. Microscopically, it is characterized by the clavate cheilo- and caulocystidia (FIG. 2) and the absence of pleurocystidia.

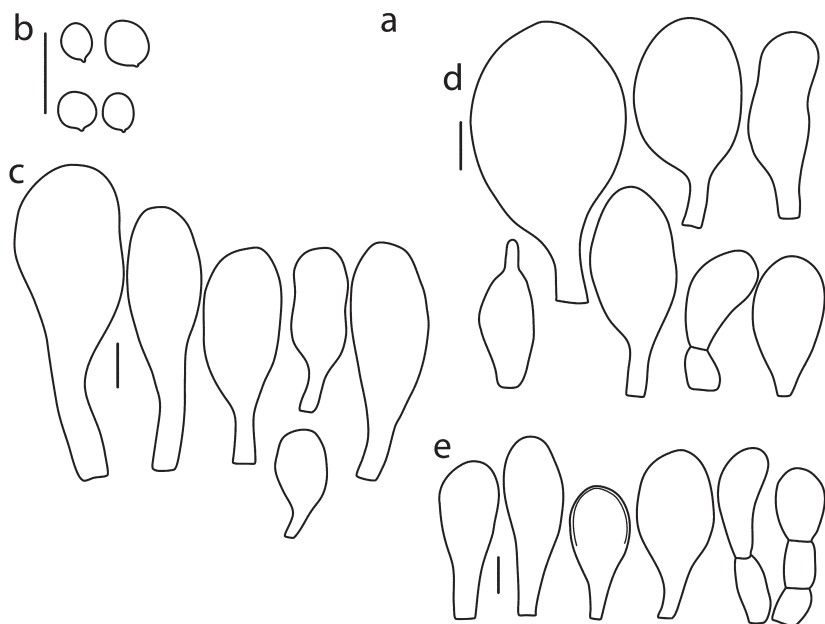


FIGURE 2. *Pluteus crenulatus* (holotype AJ353). a. Basidiocarps; b. Basidiospores; c. Cheilocystidia; d. Pileipellis elements; e. Caulocystidia. Scale bars = 10 μm.

*P. tucumanus* is a South American species that also has a sulcate, appendiculate-crenate pileus (Singer & Digilio 1952; Singer 1956, 1958). The following observations are based on our examination of its isotype in MICH (Singer T921 Argentina, Prov. Tucumán, Rio de los Sosas, 18 Jan 1950):

*Pluteus tucumanus* Singer, Lilloa 25: 269. 1952 ["1951"].

FIG. 3

BASIDIOSPORES [30, 1, 1]  $3.9\text{--}5.0 \times 2.7\text{--}4.0 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $\text{avl} \times \text{avw} = 4.5 \times 3.6 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $Q = 1.00\text{--}1.34(-1.69)$ ,  $\text{av}Q = 1.26$ , globose to ellipsoid, very rarely oblong. BASIDIA  $25\text{--}31 \times 7\text{--}10 \mu\text{m}$ , 4-spored, narrowly utriform. PLEUROCYSTIDIA  $40\text{--}53 \times 18\text{--}22 \mu\text{m}$ , (narrowly) utriform with a distinct pedicel; colorless; with thin, smooth walls; scarce and scattered, present all over lamellar sides. LAMELLAR EDGE sterile, completely covered with cystidia. CHELOCYSTIDIA  $29\text{--}52 \times 12\text{--}32 \mu\text{m}$ , (narrowly) utriform or broadly fusiform, a few narrowly clavate; colorless; with thin, smooth walls; crowded, forming a well-developed strip. Pileipellis an hymeniderm with transitions towards and epithelium; individual elements  $38\text{--}49 \times 21\text{--}32 \mu\text{m}$ , mostly clavate or spheropedunculate; filled with brown intracellular pigment, evenly dissolved or more rarely with pigment condensations; with thin, smooth walls. STIPITPELLIS a cutis; hyphae  $5\text{--}13 \mu\text{m}$  wide, cylindrical, colorless or with brown pigment; with thin, smooth walls. CAULOCYSTIDIA  $38\text{--}51 \times 17\text{--}31 \mu\text{m}$ , (narrowly) clavate to (narrowly) utriform; hyaline or with brown intracellular pigment; with thin, smooth walls; all over stipe surface, scattered or in clusters. CLAMP-CONNECTIONS absent in all tissues.

Although the differences between *P. crenulatus* and *P. tucumanus* are subtle (the latter distinguished by narrower spores, presence of pleurocystidia, and differently shaped cheilo- and caulocystidia), such subtle variations have proved critical in separating species in sect. *Celluloderma* (Justo et al. 2011c).

Singer (1958) placed *Pluteus fallax* Singer and *P. iguazuensis* Singer into the same morphological group (stirps *Tucumanus*) as *P. tucumanus*. We were unable to examine either species, but based on Singer's (1958) descriptions both taxa differ from *P. crenulatus* in (among other characters) the non-crenulate pileus margin and presence of pleurocystidia. Singer also emphasized the presence of pigment condensations in the pileipellis elements of *P. tucumanus* and the absence of such condensations in *P. fallax* and *P. iguazuensis*. We observed pigment condensations in both *P. crenulatus* and *P. tucumanus*, but the taxonomic significance of this feature needs further study.

Macroscopically, *P. crenulatus* does not resemble any species in sect. *Celluloderma* with very rare to absent pleurocystidia — e.g., *P. diettrichii* Bres., *P. insidiosus* Vellinga & Schreurs, *P. poliocnemis* Kühner — which also differ microscopically in spore and cystidia shape and size (see Kühner & Romagnesi (1956) and Vellinga (1990) for full descriptions). *Pluteus thomsonii*

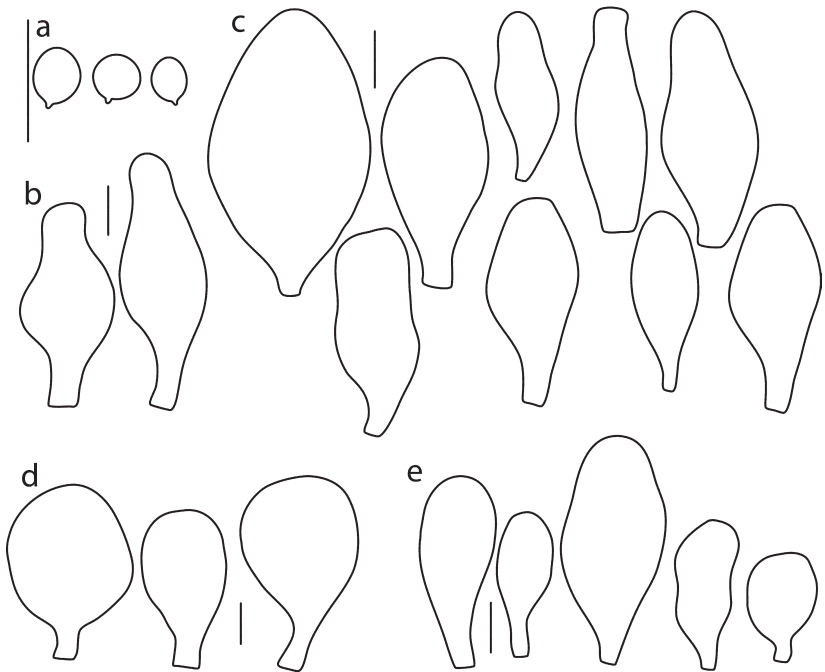


FIGURE 3. *Pluteus tucumanus* (isotype, Singer T921). a. Basidiospores; b. Pleurocystidia; c. Cheilocystidia; d. Pileipellis elements; e. Caulocystidia. Scale bars = 10  $\mu$ m.

and *P. seticeps* (G.F. Atk.) Singer, which sometimes have very rare or absent pleurocystidia, differ from *P. crenulatus* by the “*Mixtini*-type” pileipellis (see Minnis & Sundberg (2010) and Vellinga (1990) for full descriptions).

Phylogenetically, *P. crenulatus* appears somewhat isolated as sister to all taxa in sect. *Celluloderma* except *P. diettrichii* Bres. (FIG. 1). This placement receives no statistical support but suggests that *P. crenulatus* is not closely related to any of the major lineages presently recognized in sect. *Celluloderma* (Justo et al. 2011b).

***Pluteus stenotrichus* Justo, Battistin & Angelini, sp. nov.**

FIG. 4

MYCOBANK 563470

Characterized by a “*Mixtini*-type” pileipellis with very narrow, internally septate cylindrical elements.

TYPE: Dominican Republic, Prov. Puerto Plata, Sosua, El Castillo, 16 Jan 2011, leg. C. Angelini, coll. AJ352 (Holotype MICH; GenBank nrITS JN603201. Isotype MCVE 27197).

ETYMOLOGY: *stenotrichus* (= “with narrow hairs”) refers to the very unusual type of pileipellis cells.



PILEUS (20–)25–50(–60) mm, convex to plano-convex, with or without a low broad umbo; surface distinctly rugose-venose at and around center, radially areolate-rimose in the outer half, exposing the white context; brown, darker at center [7.5YR 2.5/2, 2.5/3, 3/2, 3/3], paler around center [7.5YR 4/6, 5/6, 5/8] and much paler at margin [7.5YR 7/4, 7/6, 7/8], not hygrophanous; margin rimose but not striate or sulcate. LAMELLAE crowded, free, ventricose;  $\leq 7$  mm broad; white or cream when young, later pink [5YR 8/3, 8/4], with concolorous or paler edges. STIPE 30–60  $\times$  4–6 mm, cylindrical, slightly broadened at base; white or white-cream; smooth or slightly pruinose. CONTEXT in stipe and pileus white. SMELL indistinct. TASTE not recorded. SPORE PRINT not recorded, probably pink.

BASIDIOSPORES [30, 2, 1] 4.9–7.0  $\times$  4.5–5.7  $\mu\text{m}$ ,  $\text{avl} \times \text{avw} = 5.6 \times 5.1 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $Q = 1.00\text{--}1.18$ ,  $\text{av}Q = 1.11$ , globose to broadly ellipsoid. BASIDIA 25–34  $\times$  7.5–10  $\mu\text{m}$ , 4-spored, clavate or narrowly utriform. PLEUROCYSTIDIA 34–83  $\times$  14–32  $\mu\text{m}$ , (narrowly) utriform or lageniform, a few broadly conical with long pedicel; colorless; with thin, smooth walls; relatively common, scattered over lamellar sides. LAMELLAR EDGE sterile, completely covered with cystidia. CHEILOCYSTIDIA 25–50(–65)  $\times$  14–20(–25)  $\mu\text{m}$ , (narrowly) clavate, spheropedunculate, some broadly fusiform, some with basal septum; colorless; with thin, smooth walls; crowded, forming a well-developed strip. PILEIPELLIS a hymeniderm with transitions towards and epithelium, composed of three types of elements: (i) globose, clavate or spheropedunculate 31–76  $\times$  22–60  $\mu\text{m}$ ; (ii) narrowly clavate or lageniform 53–88  $\times$  15–29  $\mu\text{m}$ ; (iii) very narrow elongated elements, 60–123  $\times$  7–10(–12)  $\mu\text{m}$ , cylindrical or flexuous, with 0–4 internal septa, usually arising from a basal element  $\leq 15 \mu\text{m}$  wide; all elements filled with brown intracellular pigment, more rarely hyaline; with thin, smooth walls. STIPITPELLIS a cutis; hyphae 5–15  $\mu\text{m}$  wide, cylindrical, colorless or with brown pigment; with thin, smooth walls. CAULOCYSTIDIA 31–63  $\times$  12–24  $\mu\text{m}$ , (narrowly) clavate, narrowly utriform or conical with basal septum; hyaline or with brown intracellular pigment; with thin, smooth walls; scattered all over stipe surface, isolated or in loosely arranged clusters. CLAMP CONNECTIONS absent in all tissues.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION—Gregarious, apparently terrestrial (among woody remnants and organic matter) in broad-leaved forest, January. Known only from the type locality in the Dominican Republic.

COMMENTS—The very narrow and internally septate elements in the pileipellis (FIG. 4) are diagnostic for *P. stenotrichus*. Taxa with both clavate-spheropedunculate and elongated elements in the pileipellis have been traditionally classified in subsect. *Mixtini* Singer, but molecular data suggest that elongated elements in the pileipellis have evolved several times within sect. *Celluloderma*, rendering subsect. *Mixtini* artificial (Justo et al. 2011a,



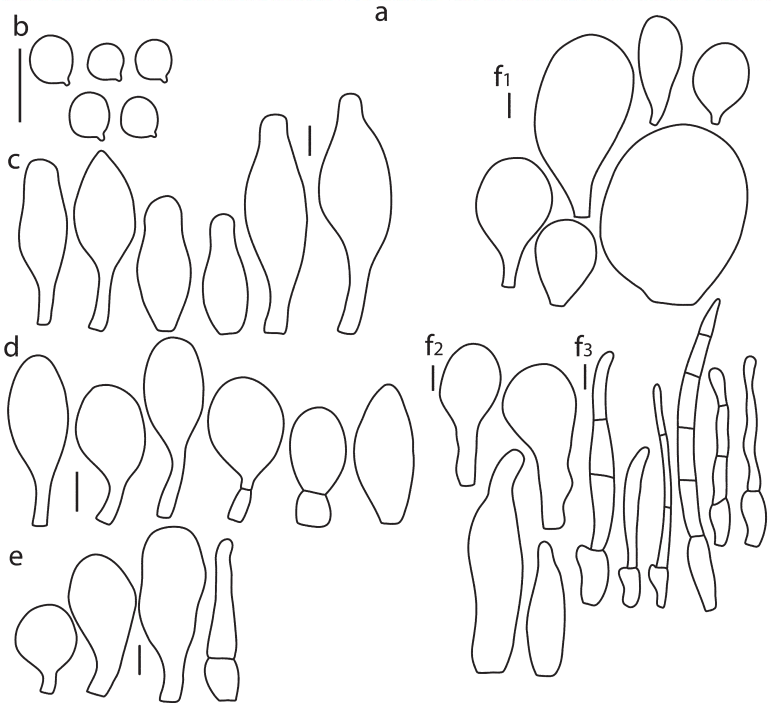


FIGURE 4. *Pluteus stenotrichus* (holotype AJ352). a. Basidiocarps; b. Basidiospores; c. Pleurocystidia; d. Cheilocystidia; e. Caulocystidia; f. Pileipellis elements – f1 clavate and spheropedunculate, f2 narrowly clavate and lageniform, f3 very narrow and internally septate. Scale bars = 10  $\mu$ m.

Fig. 1). An extensive literature search and comparison with all species described with a “*Mixtini*-type” pileipellis (e.g. Horak 1964, 2008; Horak & Heinemann 1978; Minnis & Sundberg 2010; Orton 1986; Pegler 1977, 1986; Singer 1956, 1958; Vellinga 1990; see also Justo et al. 2011a,b,c for additional taxonomic references) found none with this type of septate elongated element.

*Pluteus stenotrichus* is not closely related to any previously sequenced species with a “*Mixtini*-type” pileipellis (Fig. 1) and its position in the *romellii/aurantiorugosus* group is rather unexpected based on morphology. *Pluteus aurantiorugosus* (Trog) Sacc., *P. romellii* (Britzelm.) Sacc., and taxa in the species complex around *P. aureovenatus* Menolli & Capelari all lack any elongated pileipellis elements and are characterized in part by the bright yellow or orange-red colors of the pileus and/or stipe. The closest relative of *P. stenotrichus* is an undescribed species from Brazil (nrITS HM562173, collection SP394383) but that taxon differs in the (among other characters) absence of elongated pileipellis elements and almost total absence of hymenial cystidia (N. Menolli Jr. & M. Capelari, pers. comm.).

The narrow septate elements in the pileipellis of *P. crenulatus* are reminiscent of those typically exhibited by some members of sect. *Hispidoderma* (e.g., *P. exiguus* (Pat.) Sacc.). However the general organization of the pileipellis differs in those taxa and lacks the well-developed hymeniform layer made up of clavate or spheropedunculate elements that is typical of *P. stenotrichus* and the other species with “*Mixtini*-type” pileipellis in sect. *Celluloderma*.

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