RESEARCH ARTICLE

Re-examination of the Southern Hemisphere truffle genus Amylascus (Pezizaceae, Ascomycota) and characterization of the sister genus Nothoamylascus gen. nov.

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Key words

ectomycorrhizae fungal systematics hypogeous mitotic spore mat new taxa Patagonia Pezizaceae Pezizales Southern Gondwana **Abstract** Amylascus is a genus of ectomycorrhizal truffles within Pezizaceae that is known from Australia and contains only two described species, A. herbertianus and A. tasmanicus. Species of Amylascus are closely related to truffles (Pachyphlodes, Luteoamylascus) and cup fungi (Plicariella) from the Northern Hemisphere. Here we reevaluate the species diversity of Amylascus and related taxa from southern South America and Australia based on new morphological and molecular data. We identify previously undocumented diversity and morphological variability in ascospore color, ascospore ornamentation, hymenial construction, epithecium structure and the amyloid reaction of the ascus in Melzer's reagent. We redescribe two Amylascus species from Australia and describe seven new Amylascus species, five from South America and two from Australia. This is the first report of Amylascus species from South America. We also describe the new South American genus Nothoamylascus as sister lineage to the Pachyphlodes-Amylascus-Luteoamylascus clade (including Amylascus, Luteoamylascus, Pachyphlodes, and Plicariella). We obtained ITS sequences of mitotic spore mats from Nothoamylascus erubescens gen. & sp. nov. and four of the seven newly described Amylascus species, providing the first evidence of mitotic spore mats in Amylascus. Additional ITS sequences from mitotic spore mats reveal the presence of nine additional undescribed Amylascus and one Nothoamylascus species that do not correspond to any sampled ascomata. We also identify three additional undescribed Amylascus species based on environmental sequences from the feces of two grounddwelling bird species from Chile, Scelorchilus rubecula and Pteroptochos tarnii. Our results indicate that ascomata from Amylascus and Nothoamylascus species are rarely collected, but molecular data from ectomycorrhizal roots and mitotic spore mats indicate that these species are probably common and widespread in southern South America. Finally, we present a time-calibrated phylogeny that is consistent with a late Gondwanan distribution. The time since the most recent common ancestor of: 1) the family Pezizaceae had a mean of 276 Ma (217-337 HPD); 2) the Amylascus-Pachyphlodes-Nothoamylascus-Luteoamylascus clade had a mean of 79 Ma (60-100 HPD); and 3) the Amylascus-Pachyphlodes clade had a mean of 50 Ma (38-62 HPD). The crown age of Pachyphlodes had a mean of 39 Ma (25-42 HPD) and Amylascus had a mean age of 28 Ma (20-37 HPD), falling near the Eocene-Oligocene boundary and the onset of the Antarctic glaciation (c. 35 Ma).

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INTRODUCTION

Amylascus was described from Australia based on Hydnobolites herbertianus (Cribb 1957). Trappe (1971) transferred H. herbertianus to his newly proposed genus Amylascus as A. herbertianus and designated it as the type species. Trappe later transferred a second Australian species, Terfezia tasmanicus (Rodway 1926), to Amylascus based on morphological similarities between the two species (Trappe 1975). The genus name refers to the amyloid reaction of asci in Melzer's reagent. These truffle fruiting bodies are characterized by ascomata with a basal tuft of hyphae, a peridium (excipulum) of large cells (~100 µm diam), a gleba with meandering veins composed of an epithecium similar in cellular construction to the excipulum, asci randomly distributed in the gleba, and hyaline to yellowish globose ornamented ascospores. Amylascus herbertianus has spiny ascospores and is easily distinguished from A. tasmanicus, in which the ascospores and spines are obscured by a perispore. The perispore of A. tasmanicus is similar to those in some species of Pachyphlodes in Corda (1854) in which a thin layer of material, similar in composition to the spines, develops and spreads from the spine tips to form

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a covering (perispore) over the ascospore, leaving spine-length space between the perispore and the ascospore wall. Hence, in this lineage of fungi, the perispore is part of the ascospore ornamentation, and not a membrane or gelatinous sheath (Healy et al. 2018). Due to the prominent basal tuft of hyphae and the excipular and epithecial structures that are similar to Genea species, Trappe (1975) originally considered Amylascus within the family Geneaceae (= Pyronemataceae). However, molecular phylogenetic studies have since shown that Amylascus is a member of Pezizaceae, and closely related to the Northern Hemisphere ectomycorrhizal genera Pachyphlodes, Plicariella (= Scabropezia) and Luteoamylascus (Læssøe & Hansen 2007, Cabero et al. 2016). Australian Amylascus species have been collected in forests dominated by Eucalyptus spp. and other ectomycorrhizal Myrtaceae and are assumed to form ectomycorrhizas (Tedersoo et al. 2010). ITS sequences from ectomycorrhizal root tips collected in South American Nothofagaceae forests showed high phylogenetic similarity to sequences from Australian Amylascus specimens, suggesting that Amylascus may have a wider geographic and host range than previously documented. Data from ectomycorrhizal root tips also showed that Amylascus species were among the most detected ectomycorrhizal taxa in South American Nothofagus forests, and that some of the fungi in this group can form mycorrhizae with multiple species of Nothofagaceae (Nouhra et al. 2013 as Pachyphloeus spp., Truong et al. 2017).

Studies of asexual mitotic spore mats of *Gyromitra*, *Hydnobolites*, *Morchella*, *Pachyphlodes*, *Peziza* s.lat., *Plicariella*, *Ruhlandiella* and *Tuber* showed that integrating DNA sequences from mitotic spore mats broadly expands the known range of many taxa and often reveals the presence of previously undescribed taxa (Urban et al. 2004, Healy et al. 2013, Carris et al. 2015, Kraisitudomsook et al. 2019, Pfister et al. 2022a, b). Accordingly, we included DNA sequences from mitotic spore mats as well as ascomata of *Amylascus* to more fully assess the diversity and distribution of these and related taxa.

Here we provide the first revisionary systematic study of Amylascus in over 40 years. This is based on recent and historical collections, morphological assessments, and multi-locus phylogenetic reconstructions. Our goal was to generate a resolved phylogeny for Southern Hemisphere Amylascus species and to determine their relationship to Northern Hemisphere species of the genera Pachyphlodes, Plicariella and Luteoamylascus. We integrate these data to estimate species and clade divergence times to better understand the historical biogeographic patterns of these truffle fungi, and to reassess species hypotheses and the phylogeographic structuring of this clade. We also integrate environmental sequence data from mitotic spore mat collections, ectomycorrhizal root surveys, and bird feces microbiome analysis to improve our understanding of the diversity, distribution, and ecology of these fungi. We hypothesized that we would be able to resolve new taxa through multi-locus phylogenetics, which would support morphological characteristics. We also hypothesized that divergence time estimations would uncover deep phylogenetic splits that were consistent with plate tectonic movement and support the hypothesis that Amylascus has an ancient temperate Gondwanan origin. We expected that the inclusion of environmental sequence data would expand both the known diversity of Amylascus species and the range of species, as has been found in other groups of fungi (Bonito et al. 2010, Healy et al. 2013, Kraisitudomsook et al. 2019).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Field collections and fungarium specimens

Forty-nine ascomata and mitotic spore mats of *Amylascus* and related taxa were collected in *Nothofagaceae* forests of Pata-

gonia (Chile and Argentina) during expeditions in 2001, 2008, and 2015-2022. Eight ascomata from Australia were collected during expeditions in 1988, 1992, and 1996 or studied from the collections of the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (MEL), the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (HO), and Oregon State University (OSC). Fresh material was collected by searching on the soil surface or under leaf litter and soil with the aid of a hand rake. All collections were stored in plastic boxes to be photographed and processed within 12 h. Clean dried material from fresh or fungarium collections was stored into Cetyl Trimethyl Ammonium Bromide lysis buffer (CTAB) (Gardes & Bruns 1993) or an alkaline extraction solution (Vandepol et al. 2020) for DNA extraction. Voucher specimens were dried over low heat, stored with silica gel in plastic bags, and accessioned into the Herbario del Museo Botánico de Córdoba (CORD), the Florida Museum of Natural History of the University of Florida (FLAS), the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural de Chile (SGO), and Oregon State University (OSC).

Morphological definitions and analyses

Hand sections of dried voucher specimens were mounted in deionized water, 3 % KOH, or Melzer's reagent, and viewed with a Zeiss Axio Imager A2 compound microscope (Carl Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany). Bright-field and differential interference contrast (DIC) images were captured with an Axiocam 305 camera using Zen Pro v. 3.1 software (Carl Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany). In some cases multiple images were stacked using Helicon Focus v. 8.0.4 Pro (Helicon Soft Ltd 2000, Kharkiv, Ukraine).

Specimens were prepared for scanning electron microscopy (SEM) following the methods of Healy et al. (2018). Scanning electron micrographs were captured with a Hitachi S3500N scanning electron microscope (Hitachi High-Technologies in America, Schaumburg, IL, USA) at the University Imaging Center, University of Minnesota (St. Paul, MN, USA) at 10 kV. Spores were examined with light microscopy and dimensions (n \geq 20) were measured in tap water whereas all other features (asci, excipulum, paraphyses, glebal hyphae, basal hyphae) were measured in 3 % KOH to re-inflate these structures, which remain collapsed or folded in water mounts. Measurements were performed on CZI images with Zen Pro v. 3.1. Spore measurements excluded ornamentation and extreme measurements (unusually small or unusually large values) are shown in parentheses outside the reported size ranges. All microscopy images were taken from material mounted in 3 % KOH with bright-field settings unless otherwise noted. For some images, brightness and contrast were improved and background debris removed using Photoshop CS5 v. 12.1 (Adobe Systems Incorporated, San Jose, CA, USA).

Definitions for morphological terminology are provided below with references:

- Ectal excipulum the outer layer of tissue of an ascomycete ascocarp, part of the peridium (Korf 1973).
- Epithecium the sterile tissue that results from an over-growth of branching paraphyses above the hymenium in a truffle. This layer acts as a covering over the asci. The cellular structure of the epithecium may range from parallel hyphae to a textura intricata, to a textura angularis, to a textura angularis intergraded with a textura globulosa, similar to that of the ectal excipulum (Korf 1973).
- Gleba the inner tissue of a truffle. Pezizales truffle glebal tissues consist of asci, ascogenous tissue, sterile tissue, and may include canals or other open spaces, distinct from the excipulum (Trappe et al. 2009).
- Hymenium the layer of asci and paraphyses in a palisade (Korf 1973).

- Medullary excipulum the layer of peridial tissue subtending the ectal excipulum but morphologically distinct from it, consisting of cells that are smaller, and/or differently shaped than those of the ectal excipulum (Korf 1973).
- Mitotic spore mat masses of hyphae with mitotic spores that develop on soil or woodland debris. Also known as anamorphs or asexual spore mats (Healy et al. 2013).
- Oleiferous hyphae hyphae with lipid content that is visible during microscopy, distinguished by their refractive appearance and rich yellow to orange color, sometimes referred to as gloeoplerous hyphae in other fungal groups (Montecchi & Sarasini 2000).
- Perispore a thin layer of material, similar in composition to the spines on the ascospore, which covers the spine tips to form a covering over the ascospore, leaving spine-length space between the perispore and the ascospore wall. The perispore may entirely or partially surround the ascospore (Healy et al. 2018).
- Ptychothecium a truffle (e.g., an enclosed ascocarp that is typically hypogeous) that has hollow or stuffed canals (spaces above the fertile tissue filled with parallel to loosely interwoven hyphae) in the gleba (Weber et al. 1997).
- Textura angularis a type of fungal tissue composed of angular, more-or-less isodiametric cells that are tightly packed, forming no intercellular spaces (Korf 1973).
- Textura globulosa a type of fungal tissue composed of rounded cells that are spherical to oblong, forming intercellular spaces (Korf 1973).
- Textura intricata a type of fungal tissue composed of interwoven hyphae (Korf 1973).

DNA extraction, amplification and sequencing

DNA extraction from specimens stored in 2 % CTAB was performed using a modified CTAB extraction method (Gardes & Bruns 1993). This method was used to obtain single copy genes (EF1α, rpb1, rpb2). To obtain ribosomal genes from scant materials such as mitotic spore mats, rapid extractions were performed from material stored in alkaline extraction buffer following the methods of Vandepol et al. (2020). The ITS1-5.8S-ITS2 (ITS) region of nrDNA (ITS) was amplified with primers ITS1F (Gardes & Bruns 1993) and ITS4 (White et al. 1990); the 28S (LSU) region of nrDNA with primers LROR (Hopple Jr. & Vilgalys 1994) and LR5 (Vilgalys & Hester 1990); translation elongation factor 1- α (*EF1* α) with primers 983f and 2218r (Rehner & Buckley 2005); the largest subunit of RNA polymerase (rpb1) with primers Af and Cr (Matheny et al. 2002); and the second largest subunit of RNA polymerase (rpb2) with primers P5f, Pb7f (forward) and P7r, bRPB2-7r2, and P11Ar (reverse) (Hansen et al. 2005, Liu et al. 1999). Published primers failed to amplify the rpb2 for some species. To create primers, Pachyphlodes rpb2 sequences were aligned with Pezizales sequences downloaded from GenBank and the software package Primer3 (Untergasser et al. 2007) was used to select primers that were optimized to amplify species of Pachyphlodes. Pachy-3f (5' AATACGAACCCTCAAGGT 3') anneals approximately 100 nucleotides (nt) downstream from the RPB2-5f priming site and Pachy-3r (5' CAAGTGTGCGATCGTCATAC 3') anneals approximately 250 nt upstream of the RPB2-11Ar priming site (Liu et al. 1999). Amplicons of the Pachy-3f and Pachy-3r primer pair are c. 1400 nt. Ribosomal DNA regions (ITS and LSU) were amplified with Taq DNA Polymerase (New England Biolabs Inc., Ipswich, Massachusetts) and single-copy genes ($EF1\alpha$, rpb1, and rpb2) with Phusion Hot Start Flex DNA Polymerase (New England Biolabs Inc.), Hotstar high fidelity Taq kit (Qiagen, Venlo, Netherlands), or REdExtract-N-Amp PCR ReadyMix (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, USA) following manufacturer recommendations. Thermocycler conditions followed those of Hansen et al. (2005). Successful amplification was detected by gel electrophoresis of 1.5 % agarose gels stained with SYBR Green I (Molecular Probes, Eugene, Oregon). Amplicons were cleaned with EXO (Exonuclease I) and SAP (shrimp alkaline phosphatase) enzymes (Werle et al. 1994). Sanger sequencing was performed by Genewiz (South Plainfield, NJ, USA) or Eurofins Genomics (Louisville, KY, USA). Chromatograms were manually checked for quality, edited where necessary, and low-quality ends trimmed in Geneious Pro v. 5.6.7 (Drummond et al. 2012).

Phylogenetic analyses

To assemble datasets, we downloaded sequences based on publications that included sequences from Amylascus and related species (Cabero et al. 2016, Caiafa et al. 2021, Hansen et al. 2001, 2005, Nouhra et al. 2013). Our newly generated sequences of ITS, 28S, EF1a, rpb1 and rpb2 were used as queries for BLAST searches (NCBI) to find any additional similar sequences to include in our analyses. Datasets for each locus were assembled individually and aligned in MAFFT v. 7.471 (Katoh & Toh 2010). Alignments were manually improved in Se-AL v. 2.0a11 (Rambaut 2007). Maximum likelihood (ML) analyses were performed for each individual locus with RAxML-HPC2 v. 8.2.12 (Stamatakis 2014) using the GTRCAT substitution model with 1 000 bootstrap replicates. The resulting best tree for each alignment was visualized in FigTree v. 1.2.4 (Rambaut 2009) and checked for any supported incongruence. Since many ITS sequences were available from environmental sources (e.g., ECM root tips, mitotic spore mats, bird fecal samples), we analyzed the ITS region separately from the other loci. Statistical support for ML was considered when bootstrap values were \geq 70 %. The 28S, *EF1a*, *rpb1*, and *rpb2* alignments were concatenated by hand and analyzed using both Maximum Likelihood (RAxML, as above) with 1000 bootstrap replicates and through Bayesian inference (MB) with Mr. Bayes v. 3.2.7 (Huelsenbeck & Ronquist 2001). Models for partitions of the full matrix were chosen as described below.

For Bayesian analysis, PartitionFinder 2 was implemented using the greedy algorithm (Lanfear et al. 2017) to fit the best model of substitution for each partition. Partitions were specified for each nucleotide position of the *rpb1*, *rpb2*, and *EF1*α genes in the concatenated alignment, and for each of the two introns in rpb1, two introns in rpb2, and three introns in EF1α. Models selected for each partition were: 1) GTR+I+G for 28S, *EF1*α, and rpb2; 2) GTR+G for rpb1 position 3; 3) HKY+I+G for EF1a introns 1, 2, 3, rpb1 intron 1, and rpb2 intron 2; 4) GTR+I for rpb2 intron 1; 5) HKY for rpb1 position 1, 2 and; 6) K80+I for rpb1 intron 2. MrBayes was run in parallel with four Markov Chain Monte Carlo chains running for 20 million generations and trees sampled every 1 000 generations. The first 25 % of generations was discarded as burn-in and stationarity was evaluated based on the standard deviation of split frequency (≥ 0.01) and mixing behavior of the chains in Tracer (Rambaut & Drummond 2007) to ensure that coverage was adequate. Posterior probabilities ≥ 95 % were considered as significant support. Phylogenetic trees were visualized in FigTree v. 1.4.2 and edited in Adobe Illustrator v. 15.1.0 (Adobe Systems, Inc., San Jose, CA). The ITS tree was midpoint rooted, because our intention for the ITS analysis was to delimit species within our focus genera (Amylascus and Nothoamylascus) using the entire ITS sequence, rather than to infer the direction of evolutionary change. The multi-locus tree was rooted with outgroup sequences from Ruhlandiella spp. and Phylloscypha phyllogena (Pezizaceae) based on results from Hansen et al. (2005). All analyses were run on the Cyberinfrastructure for Phylogenetic Research Science Gateway (CIPRES) v. 3.3 (Miller et al. 2010). Alignments are available on the Open Science Framework (OSF)

Table 1 Taxa included in multi-locus alignment, including the country where collected, collector number and/or herbarium number, whether the source of sequence was an ascoma or spore mat, the GenBank accession numbers (holotype or isotype) are in **bold**.

Taxon	Locality	Type/Collector number/	Lifestage		GenBank accession numbers	ion numbers		Reference
		Herbarium of deposit		28S	ΕΕ1α	rpb2	rpb1	
Amylascus cineraceus	Chile	MES-1770/FLAS-F-64534	ascoma	OQ270081	0Q191355	OQ230425	OQ230400	Truong et al. (2017), this publication
Amylascus domingueziae	Argentina	JT26237/CORD4235	ascoma	KJ775856	ı	OQ230426	00230401	this publication
Amylascus fuscosporus	Argentina	JT26240/CORD4234	ascoma	KJ775857	OQ191356	OQ230423	OQ230402	this publication
Amylascus hallingii	Australia	AQ794771/NY1491200	ascoma	KJ775858	OQ191359	OQ230422	OQ230404	this publication
Amylascus herbertianus	Australia	JT37768/OSC, FLAS-F-69588	ascoma	MT461369	OQ191361	OQ230427	0Q230398	this publication
Amylascus procerus	Argentina	JT26241/CORD4233	ascoma	OQ270082	OQ191357	OQ230424	00230399	this publication
Amylascus tasmanicus	Australia Australia	JT18084/C, OSC, FLAS-F-70963 JT18208/OSC, FLAS-F-70964	ascoma ascoma	AF335113 MT461368	- 0Q191360	AY500465 -	OQ230397 OQ230396	Hansen et al. (2001, 2005), this publication this publication
Amylascus verus	Argentina	JT26238/CORD4248	ascoma	JN121353	OQ191358	OQ230421	OQ230403	Healy et al. (2013), this publication
Luteoamylascus aculeatus	Spain	AH43987	ascoma	KT318376	ı	KT318379	ı	Cabero et al. (2016)
Nothoamylascus erubescens	Chile Argentina Argentina Argentina	MES-1651/FLAS-F-64664 MES-2158/FLAS-F-64773 MES-574/DUKE JT26170/CORD	spore mat spore mat spore mat ascoma	MT461372 MT461371 JX414175 OQ270083	OQ191362 OQ191364 - OQ191363	OQ230419 OQ230420 OQ230418 -	OQ230394 - OQ230393 -	this publication this publication Healy et al. (2013), this publication this publication
Pachyphlodes annagardnerae	NSA	RH1034/MIN:925696	spore mat	KJ775836	OQ191354	OQ230428	OQ230410	this publication
Pachyphlodes austro-oregonensis	NSA	SOC775/OSC112205	ascoma	OQ270084	OQ191353	OQ230430	ı	this publication
Pachyphlodes camea	USA USA	JT12818/OSC JT8005/OSC43593	ascoma ascoma	KT899976 AY500544	OQ191337 OQ191338	OQ934081 AY500466	– OQ230415	this publication this publication
Pachyphlodes citrina	Italy USA	JRWL2197/OSC RH1016/FLAS-F-66245	ascoma ascoma	EU543196 OQ270085	OQ191350 OQ191349	OQ230433 OQ230432	OQ230406 OQ230405	Healy et al. (2009), this publication this publication
Pachyphlodes conglomerata	Italy	Macchioni1860/OSC	ascoma	EU543194	OQ191340	OQ230440	OQ230417	Healy et al. (2009), this publication
Pachyphlodes ligerica	France	RH1843/FLAS-F-62613	ascoma	MT461375	OQ191351	OQ230431	OQ230407	this publication
Pachyphlodes marronina	NSA	RH299/HUH258432	ascoma	EU427549	OQ191341	OQ230443	OQ230413	Healy et al. (2009), this publication
Pachyphlodes nemoralis	UK	FLAS-F-59181	ascoma	JN121362	OQ191342	OQ230439	OQ230411	Healy et al. (2013), this publication
Pachyphlodes oleifera	Spain	CJ00110601NR08/FLAS-F-66168	ascoma	KJ775854	OQ191339	OQ230441	OQ230416	this publication
Pachyphlodes sp. 20	USA	RH1233/FLAS-F-66250	ascoma	KJ775850	OQ191336	OQ230442	OQ230414	this publication
Pachyphlodes sp. 24	Mexico Mexico	JT19617/OSC, FLAS-F-70965 ITCV1509	ascoma ascoma	KJ775843 OQ270086	OQ191344 OQ191345	- 0Q230437	OQ230412 -	this publication this publication
Pachyphlodes sp. 36	NSA	FLAS-F-60761	spore mat	0Q270087	OQ191345	0Q230438	ı	this publication
Pachyphlodes thysellii	USA USA	JT13182/OSC, FLAS-F-70967 RH1007/FLAS-F-66243	ascoma ascoma	EU543197 JN121369	OQ191343 OQ191347	OQ230435 OQ230436	– OQ230409	Healy et al. (2009), this publication this publication
Pachyphlodes virescens	Mexico	JT32465/OSC, FLAS-F-70962	ascoma	KJ775824	OQ191348	OQ230434	OQ230408	this publication
Phylloscypha phyllogena	NSA	RH1440/MIN:956796	ascoma	MZ018885	0Q923305	OQ934082	OQ934084	this publication
Ruhlandiella berolinensis	Spain	SPN1/FLAS-F-62154	ascoma	MG947627	OQ923303	MH155172	MH156172	Kraisitudomsook et al. (2019)
Ruhlandiella patagonica	Chile	MES-2284/FLAS-F-62148	ascoma	MG947619	0Q923304	MH155166	MH156168	Kraisitudomsook et al. (2019)

using the following link: https://osf.io/hmyr7/?view_only=c6d6 6636eec4470db2ae2a142b780446.

For species delimitation, the complete ITS region of rDNA (ITS1, 5.8S, ITS2) for *Amylascus* and *Nothoamylascus* sequences were trimmed according to Healy et al. (2013). Sequences were clustered into operational taxonomic units (OTUs) at 97 % similarity with 20 % overlap using the 'dirty data' algorithm in Sequencher v. 5.0.1 (Gene Codes Inc., Ann Arbor, MI). Taxa used for the ITS analysis are listed in Table S1.

Divergence times based on our multi-locus alignment were estimated with BEAST v. 2.5.2 (Bouckaert et al. 2019), with 45 additional taxa belonging to representatives across *Pezizomycetes* retrieved from GenBank (Table S2). Concatenated sequences

from each species included at least two of the following loci: 28S, EF1a, rpb1, and rpb2 sequences. Ambiguously aligned regions were excluded in GBlocks using the least stringent settings (Castresana 2000, Talavera & Castresana 2007). We used a log-normal-distributed clock model, the pure-birth Yule model as tree prior, and selected the most appropriate substitution model (transition/transversion splits) with bModelTest implemented within BEAST. A uniform prior was used for the birthRate and a gamma distribution (alpha = 1, beta = 0.001) for the ucldMean parameters. We used three secondary calibration points with a normal distribution and SD = 1 Ma that were estimated from primary fossil data in Beimforde et al. (2014): 1) the time to the most recent common ancestor (tMRCA) of Pezizomycetes (mean = 414 Ma); 2) the tMRCA of Helvella-

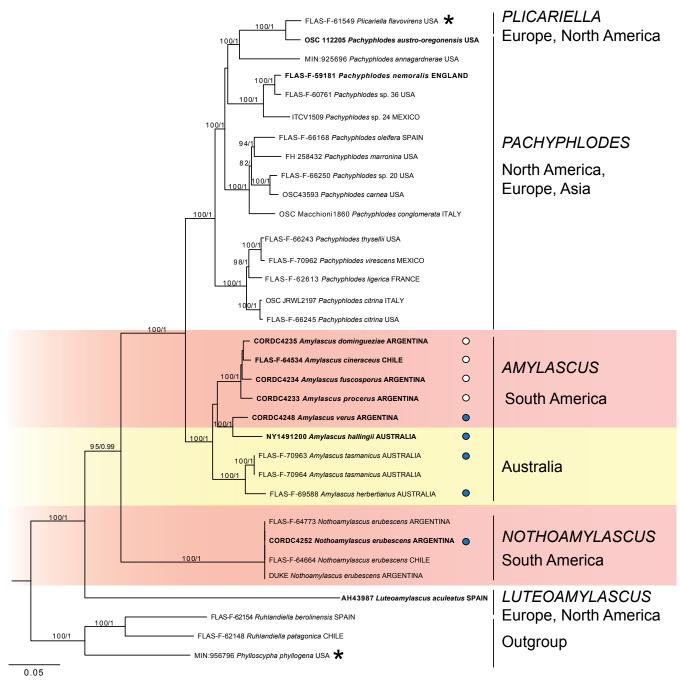


Fig. 1 Best ML phylogram from a RAxML analysis of a concatenated dataset of 28S rDNA, *EF1α*, *rpb1*, and *rpb2* sequences. Branch supports show bootstrap values ≥ 70 % on top, and posterior probability ≥ 0.95 on bottom. Phylogenetic tree rooted with *Ruhlandiella* and *Phylloscypha* (*Pezizaceae*) as outgroup taxa. Text at the terminals provides fungarium accession number, scientific binomial, and country of origin for each collection. Bolded text indicates type specimens. Taxa highlighted in orange are from South America whereas taxa highlighted in yellow are from Australia. Asterisks (*) indicate cupulate, operculate taxa whereas all others are hypogeous taxa without operculate asci. Amyloid reaction of asci indicated by circles to right of boxed species; unfilled circles indicate inamyloid asci whereas blue filled circles indicate amyloid asci.

ceae-Discinaceae-Morchellaceae (mean = 154 Ma); and 3) the tMRCA of *Pyronemataceae* (mean = 79 Ma). We ran four parallel MCMC runs of 100 million generations, sampling every 10 000th state. Runs were evaluated for convergence and chain mixing in Tracer v. 1.7.2 (Rambaut et al. 2018) and combined with Log-Combiner, removing a 10 % burnin, and resampling every 40 000th state. The final tree file included 9 000 states, which were processed with TreeAnnotator, estimating node heights using the 'ca' (common ancestor) method (Heled & Bouckaert 2013), and summarized posterior node data to a maximum-clade-credibility (MCC) tree.

RESULTS

A total of 61 ITS, 20 LSU, 30 $EF1\alpha$, 27 rpb1, and 27 rpb2 sequences were newly generated in this study. Table 1, S1, S2 list GenBank accession numbers as well as relevant voucher information, including country of origin and whether sequences

were derived from ascomata, mitotic spore mats, ectomycorrhizal root tips, or environmental samples from bird feces. The ITS dataset consisted of 74 sequences with 687 nucleotide positions (Table S1). The multi-locus phylogenetic analysis consisted of the 28S locus (33 sequences, 827 nucleotide positions), the EF1α locus (27 sequences, 1087 nucleotide positions including three introns), the rpb1 locus (24 sequences, 758 nucleotide positions including two introns), and the rpb2 locus (29 sequences, 1483 nucleotide positions including two introns). For each locus, A. herbertianus and A. tasmanicus were supported as belonging together in the same clade, A. cineraceus, A. domingueziae, A. fuscosporus, and A. procerus were supported as belonging together in the same clade, and A. hallingii and A. verus were supported as belonging together in the same clade. However, these three clades were inconsistent with respect to their relationships with each other among the four different loci, and these relationships were therefore unresolved. There were no other supported incongruences among the phylogenies from the four different loci (28S, rpb1, rpb2, EF1a) (Fig. S1). The

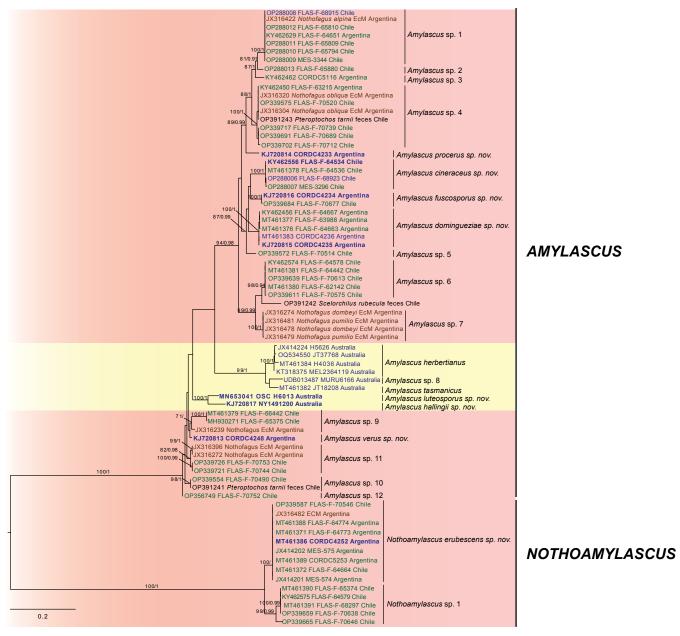


Fig. 2 Best ML phylogram from a RAxML analysis of ITS sequences. Branch supports show bootstrap values ≥ 70 % on top, and posterior probability ≥ 0.95 on bottom. The phylogenetic tree was midpoint rooted. Text at the terminals provides Genbank accession number, fungarium accession number, and country of origin for each collection. Scientific binomials or undescribed species hypotheses are listed to the right of the delimitation lines. Bolded text indicates type collections. Taxa highlighted in orange are from South America whereas taxa highlighted in yellow are from Australia. Text colors indicate the type of material sequences were obtained from: blue from ascomata, green from mitotic spore mats, brown from ectomycorrhizal root tips, and black from bird feces (*Pteroptochos tarnii* or *Scelorchilus rubecula*).

concatenated multi-locus alignment contained 4058 nucleotide positions. The resulting best ML tree (Fig. 1, Likelihood score = -30084.105324) showed that *Amylascus* species form a monophyletic and well-supported clade with species from Australia and South America. It also showed that *Amylascus* is sister to *Pachyphlodes-Plicariella*, a clade known only from the Northern Hemisphere. Note that *Plicariella* is placed within *Pachyphlodes*, making *Pachyphlodes* non-monophyletic. We intend to combine *Plicariella* into *Pachyphlodes* in a forth-

coming phylogenetic treatment of *Pachyphlodes* and will not further discuss the species of *Plicariella* as separate from *Pachyphlodes* here.

A previously unknown lineage with species exclusively from South America, described below as a new genus, *Nothoamylascus*, is well supported as sister to the *Pachyphlodes-Amylascus* clade. The northern temperate *Luteoamylascus* lineage is well-supported as sister to all of the other taxa (*Pachyphlodes-Amylascus-Nothoamylascus*), albeit on a long branch.

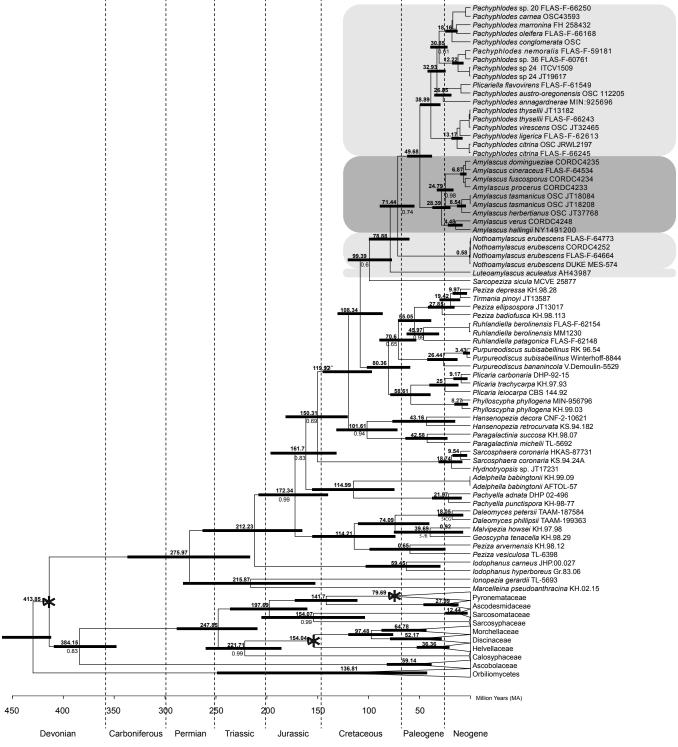


Fig. 3 Chronogram estimation of *Amylascus*, *Luteoamylascus*, *Nothoamylascus*, and *Pachyphlodes* (including *Plicariella*) in a phylogenetic context among other Pezizales fungi obtained from BEAST analysis of 28S rDNA, *EF1α*, *rpb1* and *rpb2* and calibrated with three secondary estimates (black stars) according to Beimforde et al. (2014). Number above the node represents the time to the most recent common ancestor (tMRCA) with a black bar representing the 95 % confidence interval (HPD). All nodes receive maximum Bayesian Posterior Probability unless specified below the node. The genera *Amylascus*, *Luteoamylascus*, *Nothoamylascus*, and *Pachyphlodes* are indicated in shaded boxes with the specimen voucher number and the geographic origin of the collection indicated to the right of the taxon name. The deeply shaded box is the *Amylascus* clade. Orbiliomycetes were used as the outgroup for the analysis. Geological epochs are marked at the bottom.

The three *Amylascus* clades described above had significant support in both ML and MB (Fig. 1) phylogenies, with A. hallingii (Australia) being most closely related to A. verus (South America), while the other two supported clades are geographically distinct; one being from Australia and the other from South America. The placement of these three clades within Amylascus showed incongruences between the ML and MB (Fig. 1) phylogenies, likely as a result of the incongruences among loci described above: A. herbertianus and A. tasmanicus were sister to the clade of A. cineraceus, A. domingueziae, A. fuscosporus, and A. procerus in the MB topology, while A. hallingii and A. verus were sister to this clade of four species in the ML topology. We were unable to include *A. luteosporus* (Australia) in the multi-locus analysis because we did not recover the single copy loci from our DNA extract. However, the ITS sequence and morphological characters helped to distinguish this species from other Amylascus species (see below).

For species delimitation, we included full ITS sequences (502–606 bp) from 16 ascomata, 43 mitotic spore mats, 11 ectomy-corrhizal root tips, and the ITS1 sequences (287–300 bp) from three bird fecal samples and an ascoma of *A. herbertianus* (JT37768) (218 bp), yielding a total of 74 sequences (Table S1).

Our analyses delimited two genera and 12 species from ascomata sequences; two genera and 12 species from mitotic spore mat sequences; two genera and six species from ectomycorrhizal root tip sequences, placed two of the bird feces sequences with mitotic spore mat sequences (Amylascus spp. 4 and 10), and placed a third bird feces sequence between Amylascus sp. 6 (consisting only of mitotic spore mat sequences) and Amylascus sp. 7 (consisting only of ectomycorrhizal root tip sequences). We do not consider this single environmental sequence as enough evidence to delimit a separate species. so we did not designate an OTU number until more data are available. In total, we delimited twenty-one species of Amylascus (five from Australia and 16 from South America) as well as two species of Nothoamylascus from South America (Fig. 2). However, we only had sufficient mature ascomata to formally describe or re-describe nine species of Amylascus (two previously described species and seven species described below) and one species of Nothoamylascus.

Phylogenetic analyses of the ITS region resolved the same species as OTU clustering at 97 % sequence similarity with only a few exceptions. Given the potential of short sequences to bias phylogenetic analyses, we clustered the ITS sequences both with and without the short sequences from the bird feces samples. There was one discrepancy observed between the two clustering runs. Amylascus verus clustered with Amylascus sp. 11 and ECM root tip sequence JX316239 when the shorter sequences were included. When the shorter sequences were excluded, A. verus and JX316239 were separated as two different OTUs. The phylogenetic analysis of the ITS sequences resolved A. verus as a distinct entity from Amylascus sp. 11 and ECM root tip sequence JX316239, so we accepted this delimitation. The ECM root tip sequence JX316239 was weakly supported in the same clade as Amylascus sp. 9 based on the ML analysis, so to be conservative we retained these sequences as the same OTU. A second discrepancy occurred between the clustering method and the phylogenetic method where Amylascus sp. 10 clustered with Amylascus sp. 12 based on clustering. However, this delimitation was not supported by phylogenetic analysis. We opted to separate these two taxa according to our phylogenetic results to avoid a non-monophyletic OTU delimitation.

For the lineage dating analysis, the 28S dataset included 98 sequences and 841 bp positions, the $EF1\alpha$ locus had 71 sequences and 748 bp positions, the rpb1 locus had 59 sequences and 600 bp positions, and the rpb2 locus had 90 sequences

and 490 bp positions. The time-calibrated molecular phylogeny gave an estimated age of the family *Pezizaceae* with a mean of 276 Ma (217–337 HPD) (Fig. 3). The tMRCA of the *Amylascus-Pachyphlodes-Nothoamylascus-Luteoamylascus* clade had a mean of 79 Ma (60–100 HPD) in the Cretaceous, with *Nothoamylascus* starting to diverge around 71 Ma (55–89 HPD). The tMRCA of *Amylascus-Pachyphlodes* had a mean of 50 Ma (38–62 HPD), with a crown age of *Pachyphlodes* with a mean of 39 Ma (25–42 HPD) and 28 Ma for *Amylascus* (20–37 HPD). Diversification between Australian and South American *Amylascus* species began around 25 Ma (17–33 HPD) and up to 14 Ma ago (8–22 HPD) for *A. verus* and *A. hallingii*.

TAXONOMY

Amylascus was first described based on ascomata with a finely verrucose or tomentose exterior, with an epithecium that resembles the excipulum in cellular structure, a gleba with irregularly arranged asci (not in a hymenium), and ellipsoid to subglobose amyloid asci with hyaline to yellow-brown ascospores. During this study we discovered new Amylascus species with morphological features that do not fit well with this original generic description. Here we provide revised descriptions of the two described species of Amylascus, and we emend the genus description to encompass the morphological diversity found in the taxa we describe here. We describe seven new Amylascus species and propose the new genus Nothoamylascus based on Nothoamylascus erubescens sp. nov.

It is notable that for many of the taxa described here, only a single or a few mature ascomata collections exist in fungaria. Although this situation is not ideal for taxonomic studies, we have been unable to recover additional ascomata for these taxa despite extensive targeted searches in southern South American *Nothofagaceae* forests over several years. Here we opt to describe all *Amylascus* and *Nothoamylascus* species for which mature ascomata are available to ensure that other scientists are aware of these rare fungi and to enable communication about their biology and diversity. We also note that some of these fungi are widespread and common as mitotic spore mats fruiting on soil, as ascospores in the feces of Patagonian birds (*Pteroptochos tarnii* and *Scelorchilus rubecula*), or as ectomycorrhizas with *Nothofagaceae* trees (Fig. 2).

Amylascus Trappe, emend. Healy & M.E. Sm.

Ascoma a lobed to folded ptychothecium, up to 30 mm diam, hypogeous to epigeous, pink to gray or brown, sometimes with violaceous or yellowish tones, usually hairless except for a basal tuft of hyphae or rarely tomentose, with a finely to coarsely warted exterior. Warts pyramidal, varying in height across the ascoma, with higher warts in the protected crevices of the folds. Excipulum clearly separated into an ectal excipulum and medullary excipulum, although the medullary excipulum may be thin and look similar to the subhymenium in the gleba. Ectal excipulum composed of textura angularis or textura globulosa, with large rounded to slightly angular cells. The walls of the outermost cells are usually pigmented. Medullary excipulum of textura intricata. Oleiferous hyphae present in some species, not observed in others. Glebal tissues ranging from hymenial with a palisade of asci and paraphyses to disorganized with asci randomly distributed throughout the gleba. Paraphyses either indistinguishable from glebal hyphae or present as an irregular palisade among the asci, they may be the same length as asci or may exceed the asci in length, they may terminate as free ends or be interwoven above the asci to form an epithecium. Epithecium absent or constructed of paraphyses that exceed the asci and are parallel to loosely interwoven, or form a tissue of textura angularis, similar and sometimes indistinguishable

from the ectal excipular tissue. *Asci* cylindrical, clavate, ovate or nearly globose, with croziers at the base, and four to eight ascospores in an uniseriate, irregularly biseriate, or irregular arrangement. *Ascospores* globose, hyaline, yellowish, or dark brown; containing one large oil droplet that almost entirely fills the spore, ornamented with free spines or with ornaments encompassed by a perispore. Trophic status: Ectomycorrhizal with *Nothofagaceae* in South America and found in wet sclerophyll and montane forests in Australia where ectomycorrhizal hosts include species of *Nothofagaceae*, *Myrtaceae*, and perhaps other plant lineages.

Distribution — Known only from the Southern Hemisphere.

Type. Amylascus herbertianus (J.W. Cribb) Trappe, Trans. Brit. Mycol. Soc. 57(1): 89. 1971.

Amylascus herbertianus (J.W. Cribb) Trappe, Trans. Brit. Mycol. Soc. 57(1): 89. 1971. emend. R.A. Healy — MycoBank MB 308680; Fig. 4

Basionym. Hydnobolites herbertianus J.W. Cribb, Pap. Dept. Bot. Univ. Queensland 3: 151. 1958 '1957'.

Typus. Australia, Queensland, Mt. Glorious, 25 Apr. 1955 J.W. Cribb (holotype BRI AQ0642725, not examined).

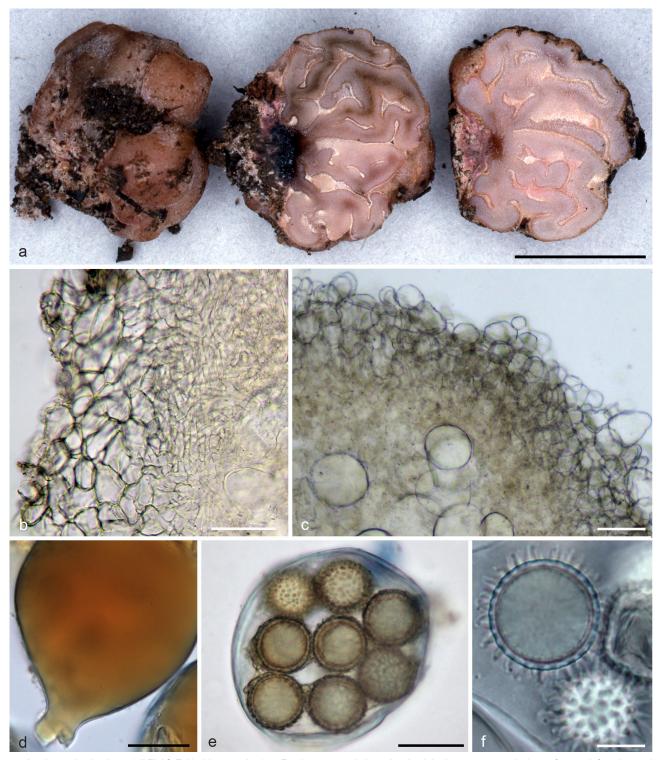


Fig. 4 Amylascus herbertianus (all FLAS-F-69586 except in e). a. Fresh ascomata halves showing lobed, verrucose excipular surface on left and convoluted gleba of veins lined with empty canals that open at the surface; b. cross section of excipulum; c. cross section of epithecium; d. young ascus in Melzer's reagent showing crozier at base; e. amyloid ascus with spores (Melzer's reagent) (FLAS-F-69588); f. ascospores with free spines. — Scale bars: a = 1 cm; $b, c = 50 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$; $d, e = 25 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$; $f = 10 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

Ascomata subglobose, lobate, plicate, up to 20 mm diam, with basal tuft of hyphae. Outer surface verrucose, tomentose, when fresh light pinkish brown excipulum (immature), becoming grayish pink brown (mature), drying to reddish brown. Gleba light pink (immature), grayish pink (mature), labyrinthine with meandering white veins lining empty canals, canals opening at various points to the outer surface. Odor mild. *Excipulum*

300–400 µm thick, ectal excipulum composed of a *textura globulosa* (cells closest to the surface) intergraded with a *textura angularis* with cells (10–)15–60(–80) µm diam, walls yellow, ~1 µm thick. A sparse tomentum of hyaline, branching hyphae develop from the surface cells, and are smooth to rough, and 4–16 µm diam. Ectal excipulum distinctly delimited from the medullary excipulum, 22–51 µm thick, composed of *textura*

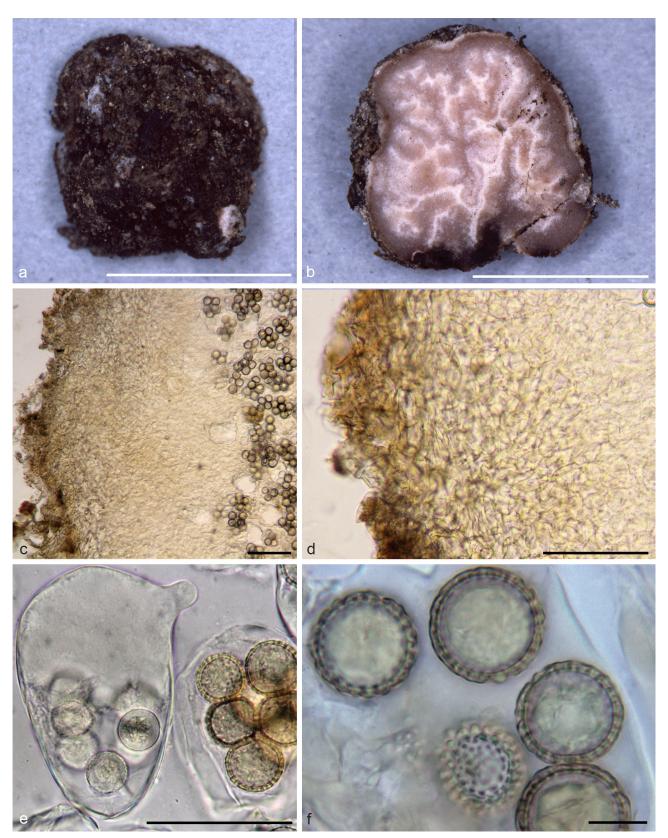


Fig. 5 Amylascus tasmanicus (FLAS-F-70964). a. Fresh ascomata showing excipulum; b. ascoma showing convoluted, infolded gleba; c–f. A. tasmanicus (HO39875, holotype); c. section through ascoma showing excipulum and gleba with asci and ascospores; d. partial cross section of ascoma; e. asci, immature on left showing pedicel, mature on right showing light brown ascospores with perispore; f. ascospores showing spines and perispore. — Scale bars: a, b = 1 cm; c, d = 100 μ m; e = 50 μ m; f = 10 μ m.

intricata with a mixture of even hyphae 5-9 µm diam, and hyphae that are slightly swollen up to 12 µm. Oleiferous hyphae not observed. Glebal hyphae composed of textura intricata, hyphae hyaline, 8-10 µm diam, occasionally slightly inflated to 12 µm; similar to hyphae of the medullary excipulum but intermixed with asci (no organized hymenium). Epithecium similar to ectal excipulum, composed of textura globulosa (cells closest to surface) intergraded with a textura angularis. Paraphyses not recognizable. Asci subglobose to obovoid, $65-100 \times 50-75 \mu m$, with short pedicel $3-12 \times 5-9 \mu m$ ending in a crozier, walls thin when immature and 1-2 µm thick at maturity, the entire wall evenly amyloid in Melzer's reagent, with (4-)5-8 ascospores irregularly arranged in the ascus. Ascospores globose, almost entirely filled with one large oil droplet at maturity, hyaline, or yellow, light brown in Melzer's reagent, ornamented with course to narrow spines, $(15-)17-22(-23) \mu m$, Q = 1, av. 19 μm , walls ~1 μ m, spines 2–3 × 0.3–1 μ m, spaced 1–2 μ m apart, weakly cyanophilic in cotton blue, no perispore.

Distribution & Ecology — Australia, ascomata hypogeous in wet sclerophyll forests with *Eucalyptus* species in autumn (Feb.–Apr.).

Ascomata collections examined. Australia, paratype Mt. Glorious, SE Queensland, under leaf mould, light rain forest, 19 Feb. 1955, *J.W. Cribb Gilkey #859* (OSC 34836); ibid., 9 Feb. 1955, *JT2095* (OSC 34757); New South Wales, Barrington Tops National Park, along Mount Allyn Rd, with Casuarina sp., Eucalyptus sp., 28 Apr. 1992, *N. Bougher & M.A. Castellano H5626* (OSC; FLAS-F-69586); New South Wales, New England National Park, wet sclerophyll forest, 7 Mar. 2008, *M. Danks* (MEL2364119); Queensland, Bald Mtn. Road, Atherton District, 4 May 1988, *M.A. Castellano H4036* (OSC, FLAS-F-69587); west of Brisbane, J.C. Slaughter Falls parking area, uphill slope along east Ithaca Creek trail, under Eucalyptus grandis, Syncarpia sp., and Acacia incinnata, 24 July 2017, *E.M. Castellano JT37768* (OSC, FLAS-F-69588).

Mitotic spore mats unknown.

Notes — This species was first described by Cribb (1957, as *Hydnobolites herbertianus*) and additional morphological information was provided by Trappe (1971). Here we provide additional information based on recently collected specimens from Queensland and New South Wales. An SEM image of an ascospore from a specimen identified by Cribb (OSC34757) is shown in Cabero et al. (2016). *Amylascus herbertianus* is easily distinguished from all other known Australian species by its spiny ascospores that lack a perispore.

Amylascus tasmanicus (Rodway) Trappe, Trans. Brit. Mycol. Soc. 65(3): 498. 1975 — MycoBank MB 308681; Fig. 5

Basionym. Terfezia tasmanica Rodway, Pap. & Proc. Roy. Soc. Tasmania 1925: 167. 1926 '1925'.

Typus. Australia, Tasmania, Cascades, May 1925, L. Rodway, s.n. Tasmanian Herbarium Hobart 39875 (holotype HO, examined).

Ascomata irregular, up to 30 mm diam, with furrows and ridges, with basal tuft of hyphae. Outer surface obscurely verrucose and tomentose (?), chestnut brown. Gleba pink with white veins, of folded to convoluted tissues intermixed with labyrinthine canals that open to the outside in places on the sides and top. Odor mild. Excipulum about 400 µm thick, cells poorly reviving, composed of textura angularis and textura globulosa, cells 30-90 µm diam, outermost cells with light yellowish brown walls. Oleiferous hyphae not observed. Glebal hyphae composed of textura intricata, hyphae hyaline, 8-20 µm diam, intermixed with asci (no organized hymenium). Epithecium composed of large cells which line the veins and chambers and give rise to hyaline hyphae that partially and loosely fill the chambers. Paraphyses not recognizable. Asci weakly but evenly amyloid along the entire wall in Melzer's reagent, walls 1-2 µm thick at maturity, ellipsoid to subglobose, $70-100 \times 50-65 \mu m$, including stem that is $10-12 \times 6-12 \mu m$, arising from croziers, 3-8

ascospores, irregularly biseriate or irregularly arranged in the ascus. *Ascospores* globose, almost entirely filled with one large oil droplet at maturity, hyaline to light yellow, pale yellow brown in Melzer's, $18-24~\mu m$ diam excluding ornamentation of rods and cones, Q = 1, av. 23 μm , ornaments $1-2~\mu m$ high, spaced $1-2~\mu m$ apart, tips embedded in perispore, ornaments weakly cyanophilic in cotton blue, walls $1~\mu m$ thick.

Distribution & Ecology — Australia (Tasmania and Victoria), ascomata hypogeous in *Eucalyptus* woodlands in autumn (May).

Other ascomata collections examined. Australia, Victoria, East Gippsland, Alpine National Park, Black Mtn track, 1.1 km east of junction with Cobberas trail, 23 May 1996, under Eucalyptus pauciflora and E. dalrympleana, A. Jumpponen JT18084 (C, MEL, OSC); Alpine National Park, Native Cat Track, 0.8 km from Black Mountain Road. Claridge Site #2, 24 May 1996, A. Jumpponen JT18208 (OSC).

Mitotic spore mats unknown.

Notes — This species is characterized by its dark brown excipulum, weakly amyloid ovoid asci, and light yellow, perispore-covered ascospores. No image of fresh material of the type specimen exists, but images of the ascoma of a recent collection of this species (for which there is an ITS sequence) is shown in Fig. 5. The collections cited above agree with the description by Trappe (1975) except that an obvious tomentum was not observed on the type specimen nor on the sequenced collections, which is why we put a question mark after this descriptor.

Amylascus cineraceus Healy & M.E. Sm., sp. nov. — Myco-Bank MB 847731; Fig. 6

Etymology. The epithet 'cineraceus' is Latin for ash-colored, referring to the predominantly gray color of the ascomata.

Typus. CHILE, Osorno, Puyehue National Park, foothills of Volcan Puyehue, up the road past El Caulle north of Rio Golgol, under *Nothofagus dombeyi*, 7 May 2016, *A. Mujic & M.E. Smith MES-1770* (holotype FLAS-F-64534; isotype SGO).

Ascomata knobby, convoluted, up to 27 × 15.5 mm, sessile, basal tuft of hyphae not observed. Outer surface verrucose with well-spaced conical warts, hairless, yellowish white when young becoming gray with some yellowish white areas when fresh and mature. The yellowish wart tips combined with the underlying gray give the ascomata a greenish cast. Gleba between excipulum and epithecium, dark gray with vinaceous tints, convoluted with irregular canals that come to surface at places on outer surface. Inner surface indistinguishable from outer surface except for position in the ascomata. Odor not detected. Excipulum 240-624 µm thick, ectal excipulum with conical warts up to 384 µm high, grayish brown in water and KOH under transmitted light, composed of textura globulosa (outermost cells) intergraded with textura angularis, cells up to $85 \times 71 \, \mu m$, walls up to 4 μm thick. Large cells of the ectal excipulum grade into smaller cells of the medullary excipulum, about 60-80 µm thick composed of textura intricata, hyphae hyaline, 3–11 µm diam at the septum, and inflated up to 30 µm diam. Oleiferous hyphae not observed. Epithecium similar in composition to excipulum, 80-440 µm, outer layer with conical warts up to 360 µm high, gray in water and KOH, composed of large rounded cells similar to excipular cells, isodiametric to ovoid, up to 79×51 µm, outermost cell walls up to 4 µm thick, inner layer thin, similar to medullary excipulum. Glebal tissue composed of textura intricata intermingled with asci (no organized hymenium), hyphae hyaline 3-14 µm diam at septum, not much swollen between septa. Paraphyses not recognizable. Asci broadly cylindrical to obovate, widest near the base, inamyloid in Melzer's reagent, 243-287 × 35-50 µm, including short pedicel 8–22 × 8–10 µm diam, arising from croziers, with

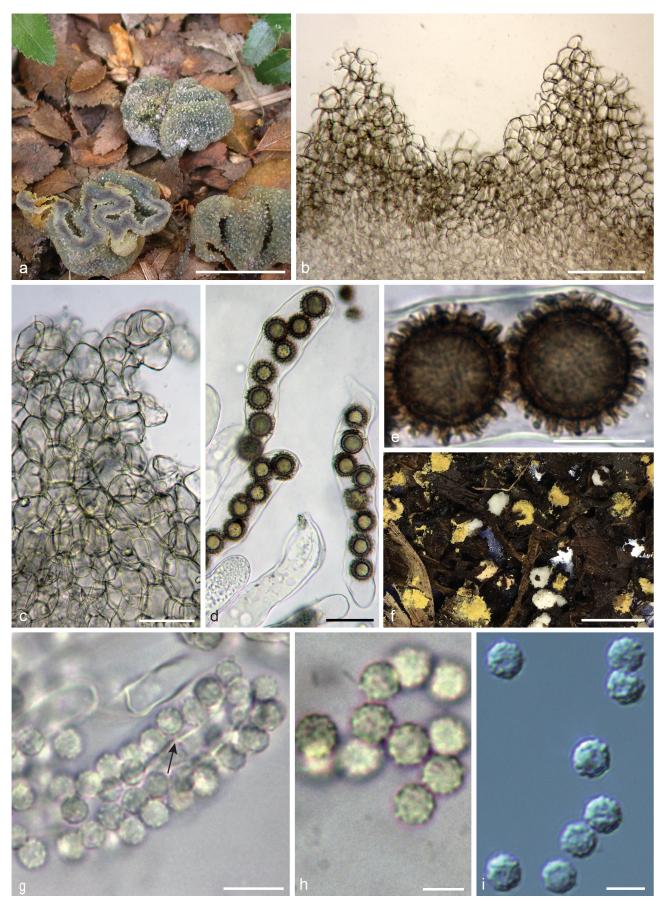


Fig. 6 a-e. *Amylascus cineraceus* ascoma (FLAS-F-64534, holotype), f-i. *A. cineraceus* mitotic spore mat (FLAS-F-64536). a. Fresh ascoma halves showing gleba (lower left) and excipulum (top and right); b. excipular wart; c. epithecial wart; d. ascus and ascospores in KOH; e. ascospores in water; f. mitotic spore mat; g. mitotic spores attached by denticle to conidiophore (arrow); h. mitotic spores in KOH; i. mitotic spores, showing warts. — Scale bars: a, f = 2 cm; b = 100 μ m; c, d = 50 μ m; g = 10 μ m; h, i = 5 μ m.

(4-)6-8 ascospores arranged uniseriately. Ascospores globose, almost entirely filled with one large oil droplet at maturity, dark brown, ornamented with spines, $(22-)24-27(-28) \mu m$ diam, Q = 1, av. 24.4 μm excluding tapered spines, $2-4(-5) \mu m$ high, av. 3.5 μm high, without a perispore covering the spines.

Mitotic spore mats composed of white hyphae with yellow mitospores (mature) that develop in small patches (≤ 1 cm) within soil (shallow hypogeous to ~5 cm) or on the soil surface and on fallen leaves. Subtending hyphae smooth, hyaline to yellow, 5-15 μm diam at septum, loosely interwoven to parallel, not conidiogenous, conidiophores arising from subtending hyphae, smooth, hyaline to yellow, branching, branches of uneven lengths, 6-8.9 μm diam not inflated, conidiogenous hyphae 5.4-7.5 μm diam at the apices. Polyblastic mitotic spores produced synchronously from short denticles (≤ 1 μm long) along conidiophore branches. Mitotic spores globose to ovoid, dry, hydrophobic, warted, 5-6 μm diam, av. 5.1 μm diam excluding warts, warts up to 0.7 μm high × 0.6 μm wide.

Distribution & Ecology — South America (Chile), ascomata hypogeous, mitotic spore mats hypogeous to epigeous in montane *Nothofagaceae* forests, autumn (May).

Other ascomata collections examined. CHILE, Valdivia, San Pablo de Tregua Reserve (reserve of the Universidad Austral), hypogeous in soil under Nothofagus dombeyi and Lophozonia obliqua, 9 May 2019, M.E. Smith, M. Caiafa, Y. Maldonado, MES-3295 (FLAS-F-68923).

Mitotic spore mat collections examined. CHILE, Osorno, Puyehue National Park, foothills of Volcan Puyehue, up the road past El Caulle north of Rio Golgol, hypogeous in soil or on fallen leaves and soil surface under Nothofagus dombeyi, 7 May 2016, R. Healy, M.E. Smith, A. Mujic MES-1772 (FLASF-64536); Valdivia, San Pablo de Tregua Reserve (reserve of the Universidad Austral), on soil under Nothofagus dombeyi and Lophozonia obliqua, 9 May 2019, M.E. Smith, M. Caiafa, Y. Maldonado MES-3296 (specimen destroyed, but photos and DNA sequences available).

Notes — This species is characterized by its predominantly gray ascoma (with warts that are yellow at the tips and therefore give the ascomata a greenish cast) and the combination of the broadly cylindrical inamyloid asci, dark brown and spiny ascospores, an epithecium that resembles the excipulum, and the disorganized hymenium. It is one of the two species of *Amylascus* in which the ascomata and mitotic spore mats were found concurrently. It is most similar to the closely related species *Amylascus fuscosporus* sp. nov. but differs in its larger ascospore size (24.4 µm diam on average for *A. cineraceus* compared to 20.5 µm diam on average for *A. fuscosporus*).

Amylascus domingueziae Healy, Trappe, & M.E. Sm., sp. nov.— MycoBank MB 847732; Fig. 7

Etymology. Epithet is in honor of the esteemed Argentinean mycologist and collector of this species, Dr. Laura Dominguez.

Typus. Argentina, Neuquen, Lanín National Park, Ruta 48A Hua Hum, 3.5 km from the border with Chile, under Lophozonia alpina, L. obliqua, and Nothofagus dombeyi, 25 Apr. 2001, L. Dominguez JT26237 (holotype CORD-C4235; isotype FLAS-F-69557).

Ascomata irregularly subglobose, convoluted, up to 20×11 mm, sessile, with white basal tuft of hyphae. Outer surface with low conical warts, hairless except for basal attachment, pink when young, becoming dark chestnut with reddish vinaceous tints when mature and fresh, reddish brown with light yellowish brown warts when dried. Inner surface indistinguishable from outer surface. Gleba between excipulum and epithecium, dark gray to black with red tints when fresh, convoluted with irregular canals that come to the outer surface in places. Odor indistinct. *Excipulum* 84–300 μ m thick with warts up to 288 μ m. Ectal excipulum composed of large, rounded, isodiametric to ovoid cells, up to 82.5 \times 53 μ m, walls 1.65 μ m thick, yellowish brown. Medullary excipulum 22–51 μ m thick, composed of *textura*

intricata that is a mixture of non-inflated hyphae $5-9~\mu m$ diam and hyphae slightly inflated up to 13 µm. Epithecium similar in structure to excipulum, 128–225 μm thick, warts up to 163 μm high, composed of rounded cells up to 53 \times 79 μ m; outer cells light brown. Glebal tissue composed of textura intricata mingled with asci (no organized hymenium), hyphae hyaline, $6.6-13~\mu m$ at the septum, inflated in places up to 16 $\mu m.$ No oleiferous hyphae observed. Paraphyses not recognizable. Asci cylindrical to broadly cylindrical, $173-198(-223) \times (30-)35-52 \mu m$, arising from croziers, inamyloid, usually with 8 ascospores, but (4-)5-8 spored asci also present, spores uniseriate to irregularly biseriate. Ascospores globose, filled with one large oil droplet at maturity, dark brown, further darkening in Melzer's reagent, ornamented with spines, (11-)12.5-14.5(-16.5) µm, Q = 1, av. 13 µm excluding ornamentation of tapered spines 1-1.8 µm high, av. 1.5 µm high, with some spines connected at the base, walls 1.65 µm thick, no perispore.

Mitotic spore mats composed of white hyphae with yellow mitotic spores (mature) that occur in small patches within soil (shallow hypogeous to ~5 cm) or on the soil surface. Subtending hyphae smooth, hyaline, 6.9–9.5 μm diam at septum, conidiophores smooth, hyaline, branching, branches of uneven lengths, 5.4-9.3 μm diam slightly swollen up to 14.9 μm at tips. Polyblastic mitotic spores produced synchronously from denticles (0.7–1 μm long) along conidiophore branches. Mitotic spores globose to ovoid, dry, hydrophobic, warted, 4.8-6.4 μm diam, av. 5.6 μm diam excluding warts, warts 0.5-0.8 μm high, of variable width to 1 μm.

Distribution & Ecology — Southern South America (Argentina), ascomata hypogeous, mitotic spore mats on soil surface in montane forests of *Lophozonia obliqua*, *L. alpina*, and *Nothofagus dombeyi*, autumn (Apr.—May).

Other ascomata collections examined. Argentina, Neuquen, Lanín National Park, Ruta 48A Hua Hum, 3.5 km from the border with Chile, under Lophozonia obliqua, L. alpina, and Nothofagus dombeyi (40 7 920S – 71 38 575W), 25 Apr. 2001, E. Cázares & L. Dominguez JT26239, CORD 4236.

Mitotic spore mat collections examined. ARGENTINA, Neuquen, Lanín National Park, on soil in forest of Nothofagus dombeyi, 16 May 2015, R. Healy MES-1295 (FLAS-F-64667, CORD); trail to cascada Chachin, on soil in forest of Lophozonia alpina, L. obliqua, Nothofagus dombeyi, 15 May 2015, R. Healy MES-1296 (FLAS-F-63988, CORD); north of Lago Lacar about half way between San Martin and the Hua Hum, on soil in forest of L. alpina and L. obliqua, 18 May 2015, R. Healy MES-1352, (FLAS-F-64663).

Notes — This species is characterized by its predominantly reddish brown ascomata, and the combination of inamyloid, broadly cylindrical asci, dark brown, spiny ascospores, an epithecium that resembles the excipulum, and lack of an organized hymenium. This species is most similar to the closely related *A. cineraceus* and *A. fuscosporus*, but the ascospores of *A. domingueziae* are much smaller (13 µm av.) than those of *A. cineraceus* (24.4 µm av.) or *A. fuscosporus* (20.5 µm av.). Collection JT26239 was a mixed collection. Pieces were sorted by morphology, but measurements were only taken from the holotype (JT26237). Based on morphological similarity, collection JT26245 is likely this species, but we were only able to obtain DNA sequences of a non-target fungus in the Eurotiales from the ascomata.

Amylascus fuscosporus Healy, Castellano & M.E. Sm., *sp. nov.* — MycoBank MB 847733; Fig. 8

Etymology. The epithet is derived from the Latin 'fuscus' (L), meaning brown, in reference to the color of the ascospores.

Typus. Argentina, Neuquen, Lanín National Park, Ruta 48A Hua Hum, 3.5 km from the border with Chile, under Lophozonia alpina, L. obliqua, and Nothofagus dombeyi, 25 Apr. 2001, M.A. Castellano JT26240 (holotype CORD-C4234; isotype FLAS-F-69555).

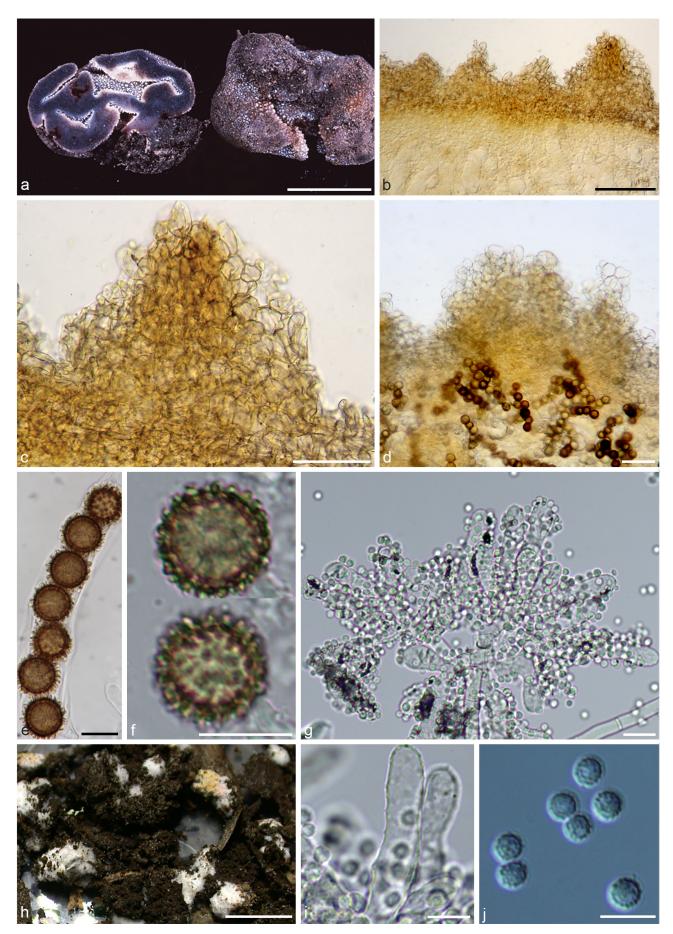


Fig. 7 a–f. *Amylascus domingueziae* ascoma (CORDC4235, holotype), g–j. *A. domingueziae* mitotic spore mat (FLAS-F-64667). a. Fresh ascoma showing gleba with epithecial warts (left) and warted excipulum (right); b. cross section through excipulum and part of gleba; c. long section of excipular wart; d. long section through epithecial warts and gleba; e. cylindrical ascus with brown ascospores (water); f. ascospores (water); g. mitotic spore mat conidiophore; h. mitotic spore mat; i. two young conidiophores; j. mitotic spores showing warts. — Scale bars: a = 1 cm; b, d = 50 μm; c = 25 μm; e–g = 20 μm; h = 1 cm; i, j = 10 μm.

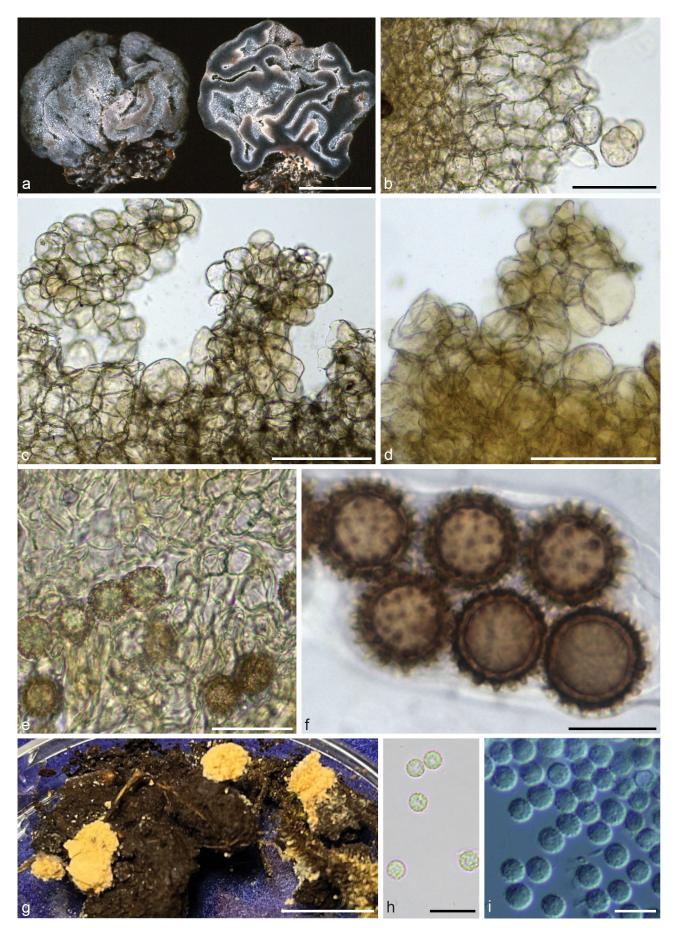


Fig. 8 a-f. *Amylascus fuscosporus* ascoma (CORDC4234, holotype), g-i. *A. fuscosporus* mitotic spore mat (FLAS-F-70677). a. Fresh ascoma halves showing excipulum (left) and gleba with epithecial warts (right); b. long section through excipulum and part of gleba (KOH); c. cross section of excipular wart; d. cross section through epithecial wart; e. gleba; f. ascospores within ascus; g. mitotic spore mat; h. mitotic spores; i. mitotic spores showing warts. — Scale bars: a, g = 1 cm; $b-d = 100 \mu m$; $e = 50 \mu m$; $h = 10 \mu m$.

Ascoma globose, knobby, deeply convoluted, 26 × 20 mm, sessile, with basal tuft of hyphae, outer surface ornamented with conical warts (3 per mm), hairless except for basal hyphae, outer surface dark gray, but warts paler grayish white when fresh, outer surface brown with light brown warts when dried, basal tuft of hyphae pink and white when fresh, reddish brown when dried. Gleba between excipulum and epithecium, dark gray, convoluted with irregular canals that come to the surface at places on the exterior. Epithecium paler gray but otherwise indistinguishable from excipulum. Odor earthy. Excipulum of textura angularis intergraded with textura globulosa, 148–1150 μm thick, with conical warts up to 900 μm high (highest in the crevices), hyaline to yellowish brown in water and KOH, composed of large, rounded, isodiametric to ovoid cells, up to

 $82\times45~\mu\text{m}$, walls $1.5~\mu\text{m}$ thick, medullary excipulum composed of textura intricata, $48~\mu\text{m}$ thick, of hyaline to yellow brown hyphae that intergrade with gleba, cells $4.5-7.6~\mu\text{m}$ diam at septum, walls $1~\mu\text{m}$ thick. Epithecium similar to excipulum, $304-400~\mu\text{m}$ thick, with conical warts up to $160~\mu\text{m}$ high, light brown in water and KOH, composed of large, rounded cells similar to excipular cells, isodiametric to ovoid, up to $80\times50~\mu\text{m}$, outermost walls $3~\mu\text{m}$ thick. Glebal tissue composed of textura intricata with occasional oleiferous hyphae, intermingled with asci (no organized hymenium), hyphae hyaline to yellow, not reviving well in water or KOH, $3.3-7.8~\mu\text{m}$ diam at septum, some inflated to $12~\mu\text{m}$. Paraphyses not recognizable. Asci cylindrical to broadly cylindrical, with croziers, inamyloid in Melzer's reagent, $130-160\times40-50~\mu\text{m}$, with 4-8 ascospores in uniseriate

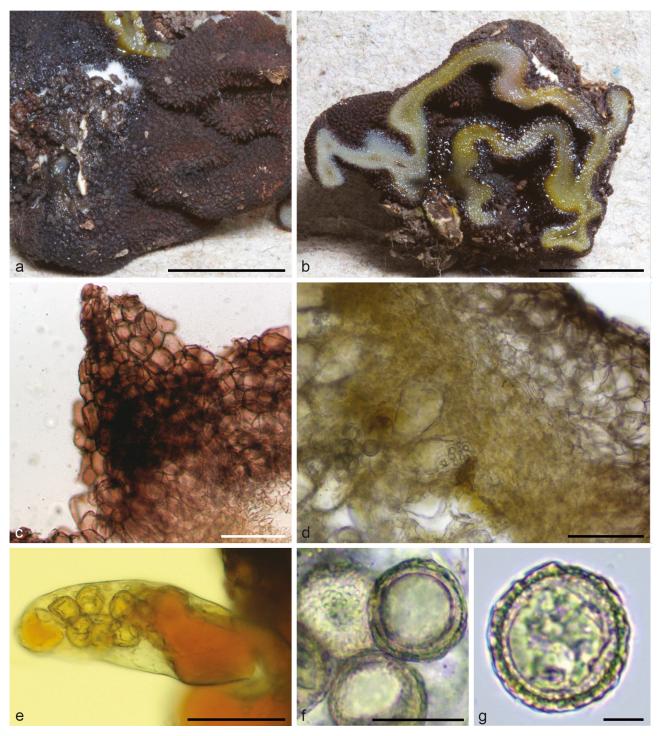


Fig. 9 *Amylascus hallingii* (NYBG1491200, holotype). a. Fresh ascoma half showing excipulum, white basal hyphae and excipular warts; b. fresh ascoma half showing gleba and epithecial warts; c. excipular wart; d. cross section through excipulum and part of gleba; e. amyloid ascus (immature, Melzer's reagent); f. ascospores; g. ascospore showing spines and perispore. — Scale bars: a, b = 0.5 cm; c, d = 100 μm; e = 50 μm; f, g = 20 μm.

to irregularly biseriate arrangement. *Ascospores* globose, filled with one large oil droplet at maturity, dark brown, ornamented with spines, 18-22(-24) µm diam, Q = 1, av. 20.5 µm diam excluding tapered spines, 2-4(-4.5) µm high, av. 3 µm high, wall 1 µm thick, without a perispore covering the spines.

Mitotic spore mats composed of white hyphae with yellow mitotic spores (mature) that develop in small patches on soil surface. Subtending hyphae smooth, hyaline, septate, 5.4-6.7(-7.9) μm diam at septum, parallel, not much branched, with some anastomoses between filaments. Conidiophores smooth, hyaline, branching, branches of uneven lengths. Polyblastic mitotic spores produced synchronously from denticles (≤ 1 μm long) along conidiophore branches. Mitotic spores globose to subglobose, dry, hydrophobic, warted, 5.5-6.2 μm, diam, av. 5.9 μm diam excluding warts, warts up to 0.4 μm high $\times 0.8$ μm wide at base, unevenly distributed along the mitotic spore wall.

Distribution & Ecology — Southern South America (Argentina and Chile), ascomata hypogeous, mitotic spore mats epigeous in montane *Nothofagaceae* forests, autumn (Apr.).

No other ascomata collections known.

Mitotic spore mat collection examined. CHILE, Nuble, Quillón, Cerro Cayumanque (36 42 10S – 72 30 27W), 540 m a.s.l., 11 May 2022, *P. Sandoval MES-4151* (FLAS-F-70677).

Notes — This species is characterized by its predominantly gray ascoma, and the combination of broadly cylindrical inamyloid asci, dark brown spiny ascospores, an epithecium that resembles the excipulum, and a disorganized hymenium. It is most similar to the closely related $A.\ cineraceus$, but differs in its smaller ascospore size (20.5 µm av. for $A.\ fuscosporus$ vs 24.4 µm av. for $A.\ cineraceus$).

Amylascus hallingii Healy & M.E. Sm., sp. nov. — MycoBank MB 847734; Fig. 9

Etymology. Named after the eminent mycologist Roy Halling, one of the collectors of this species.

Typus. Australia, Queensland, Springbrook National Park, Apple Tree Park, hypogeous in soil of wet sclerophyll woodlands with species of Eucalyptus, Syncarpia, and Allocasuarina, 2 June 2011, R. Halling, N. Fechner & T. Baroni AQ794771 (holotype NY 1491200).

Ascomata oblong, lumpy, folded, convoluted, fresh size not recorded, dry size $15 \times 10 \times 8$ mm, sessile with basal tuft of hyphae, outer surface ornamented with high, tapered warts, hairless except for basal hyphae. Dark reddish brown to black when fresh, basal hyphae white. Gleba between excipulum and epithecium, white to yellowish or greenish, convoluted with irregular canals that come to the surface at places on the outside. Epithecium indistinguishable from excipulum. Odor not recorded. Excipulum. 81-600 µm thick, ectal excipulum with conical warts up to 500 µm high, highest in the crevices, reddish brown in water and KOH under transmitted light, composed of isodiametric to rectangular rounded cells up to 110 x 49 μm, outermost cells with thick walls, up to 3 μm, inner cell walls 1.5 µm. Epithecium same color and similar structure as excipulum, conical warts up to 326 μ m, cells up to 88 \times 31 μ m. Medullary excipulum composed of textura intricata, 57–90 μm thick, intergrading with glebal hyphae, both hyaline to light yellow in water and in KOH. Gleba composed of textura intricata intermixed with occasional oleiferous hyphae and asci (no organized hymenium), glebal hyphae 3.5-8 µm diam and oleiferous hyphae 10–13 µm diam, walls 1 µm thick. Paraphyses not recognizable. Asci, clavate, short pedicellate or pedicel lacking, with croziers, weakly but evenly amyloid, 115-181 × 49–62 μm, with (3–)6–8 ascospores arranged uniseriately to biseriately. Ascospores globose, filled with one large oil droplet at maturity, pale to deep yellow, ornamented with short spines,

17.7-20.3(-21.5) µm diam, Q = 1, av. 19.8 µm diam excluding spines, 0.8–1.8 µm, av. 1.3 µm high, enveloped by a perispore.

Distribution & Ecology — Known from a single collection, hypogeous, from wet sclerophyll woods of Australia that includes potential ECM trees *Eucalyptus* and *Allocasuarina*, autumn (early June).

No other ascomata collections known. Mitotic spore mats unknown.

Notes — This species is characterized by its dark reddish brown excipulum with pronounced warts, weakly amyloid clavate asci, and yellow ascospores with spore ornaments that are encompassed by a perispore. This species is most morphologically similar to *A. luteosporus*, but the asci of *A. hallingii* are shorter and more clavate than those of *A. luteosporus*, there is no organized hymenium in *A. hallingii*, and oleiferous hyphae are more prominent in *A. luteosporus*. In addition, *A. hallingii* has a well-developed epithecium that is similar in structure to the excipulum whereas *A. luteosporus* has a weakly developed epithecium that is comprised of loosely interwoven hyphae.

Amylascus Iuteosporus Healy, Castellano & M.E. Sm., sp. nov. — MycoBank MB 847735; Fig. 10

Etymology. Derived from the Latin 'luteus' meaning deep yellow in reference to the color of the mature ascospores.

Typus. Australia, Queensland, Mt. Glorious, summit along Mt. Glorious Hwy, D'Aguilar State Forest, 4 May 1992, *M.A. Castellano H6013* (holotype FLAS-F-69585).

Ascomata lobed and furrowed with apical to lateral orifice, up to 15 × 24 mm, with basal tuft of hyphae. Outer surface varying from verrucose to smooth, dark brown, orifice yellow, unexposed furrow surfaces dark green. Gleba of infolded dark green fertile and grayish yellow sterile veins lined by empty canals, sometimes converging at the surface of the ascoma. Odor is faint but pleasant. Excipulum 255-542 µm thick, ectal excipulum with conical warts up to 441 µm high, outermost portion brown in water, yellow in KOH, inner portion hyaline to lighter brown than outer portion. Ectal excipulum composed of a textura angularis intergraded with textura globulosa, comprised of large cells up to 49 × 44 µm, outermost cells with thicker walls than interior cells, outermost cell walls 1.2 µm thick, inner cell walls 0.8 µm thick. Medullary excipulum is of a small-celled textura angularis grading to a textura intricata towards the gleba. Oleiferous hyphae are prominent, with yellow to orange-brown content, hyphae sometimes swollen, parallel to interwoven among other excipular cells. Gleba composed of disorganized hymenia. Epithecium present in some places as parallel to loosely interwoven hyphae, but absent over most of the hymenium, so that there is sometimes space (a canal) between the opposing hymenial surfaces. Paraphyses in palisade with asci, mostly similar in length to asci but some are longer than the asci and are loosely interwoven to form a rudimentary epithecium. Some paraphyses branched near the base or up to mid length, hyaline, non- to slightly inflated, 4-8.4 µm at septum, sometimes inflated 5–10 µm. Asci cylindrical to broadly cylindrical, with short pedicels ending in croziers, 190-265 x 29–40 μ m, pedicels up to 24 μ m long \times 16 μ m diam, weakly but evenly amyloid in Melzer's reagent, with 7–8 ascospores arranged uniseriately to irregularly biseriately. Ascospores globose, filled with one large oil droplet at maturity, hyaline to deep yellow in water and KOH, medium brown in Melzer's reagent, ornamented with short spines, 16.5-20.6 µm diam, Q = 1, av. 18.7 μ m diam excluding spines, spines 0.8–2.5 μ m, av. 1.7 µm high, enveloped by a perispore.

Distribution & Ecology — Australia. Hypogeous in montane forest with *Eucalyptus* species, autumn (Apr.).

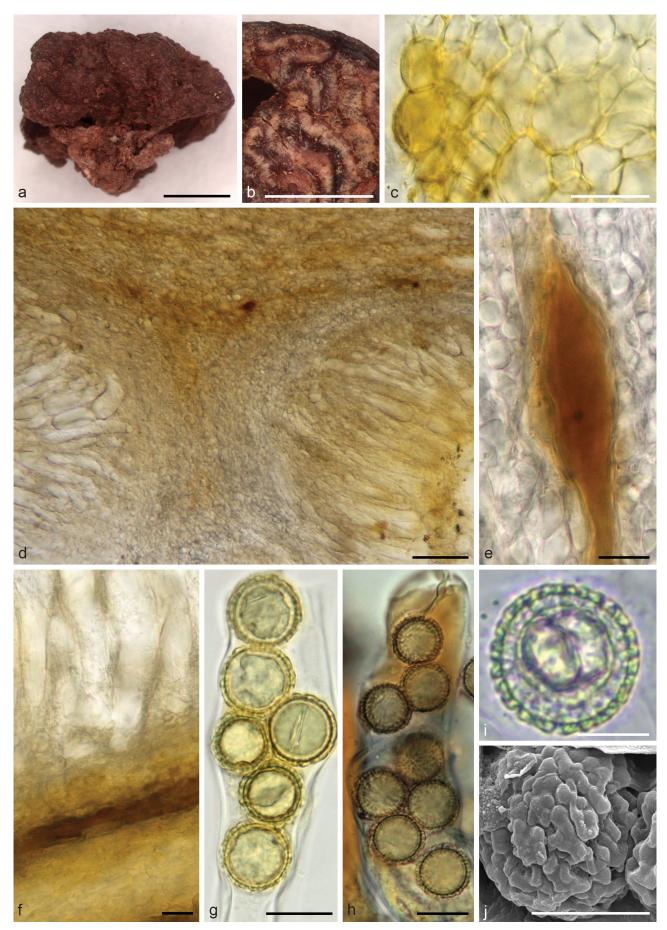


Fig. 10 Amylascus luteosporus (FLAS-F-69585, holotype). a. Ascoma exterior (dry); b. gleba of ascoma (dry); c. cross section through excipulum; d. section through gleba showing palisade of paraphyses and asci on each side of the trama; e. oleiferous hypha in medullary excipulum; f. oleiferous hyphae in medullary excipulum; g. ascus with yellow, mature ascospores; h. amyloid ascus and ascospores that are brown in Melzer's reagent; i. ascospore showing spines and perispore; j. SEM of ascospore showing perispore surface. — Scale bars: a, b = 0.5 mm; c = 50 μ m; d = 100 μ m; f-h = 20 μ m; i, j = 10 μ m.

No other ascomata collections known. Mitotic spore mats unknown.

Notes — This species is characterized by its reddish brown excipulum with pronounced warts, abundant oleiferous hyphae in the excipulum, weakly amyloid clavate asci in a loosely organized hymenium, with hymenia clearly separated by veins of textura intricata, and yellow ascospores with spore ornaments that are encompassed by a perispore. This species is similar to A. hallingii in its DNA sequences, having significant support as sister species, and also has morphological similarities. There is a distinct (though disorganized) hymenium in A. luteosporus that is lacking in A. hallingii, and the asci of A. hallingii are shorter and more clavate in shape than those of A. luteosporus. Oleiferous hyphae are more prominent in A. luteosporus than in other species of Amylascus. In addition, A. hallingii has a well-developed epithecium that is similar in structure to the excipulum whereas A. luteosporus has a weakly developed epithecium that is comprised of loosely interwoven hyphae. We were unable to obtain the single copy genes necessary to include this species in our multi-locus analysis, but the ITS

sequence and morphological characters help to separate this species from all others.

Amylascus procerus Healy, Castellano & M.E. Sm., sp. nov. — MycoBank MB 847736; Fig. 11

Etymology. The Latin epithet 'procerus', means long, and refers to the elongated paraphyses in this species.

Typus. Argentina, Neuquen, Lanín National Park, Ruta 48A Hua Hum, 3.5 km from the border with Chile, under Lophozonia alpina, L. obliqua, and Nothofagus dombeyi, 25 Apr. 2001, M.A. Castellano JT26241 (holotype CORD-C4233; isotype FLAS-F-69556).

Ascoma irregularly subglobose, folded, 17 × 12.5 mm, sessile, with basal tuft of hyphae, outer surface pinkish brown with white to pinkish brown warts, ~3 per mm, when fresh. Outer surface hairless except for basal tuft of hyphae, basal hyphae cream colored. Gleba convoluted with cavities and irregular canals of various sizes that come to various places at the surface, epithecium mostly suede-like (smooth) and white with underlying yellow layer, but in some places forming brown warts similar

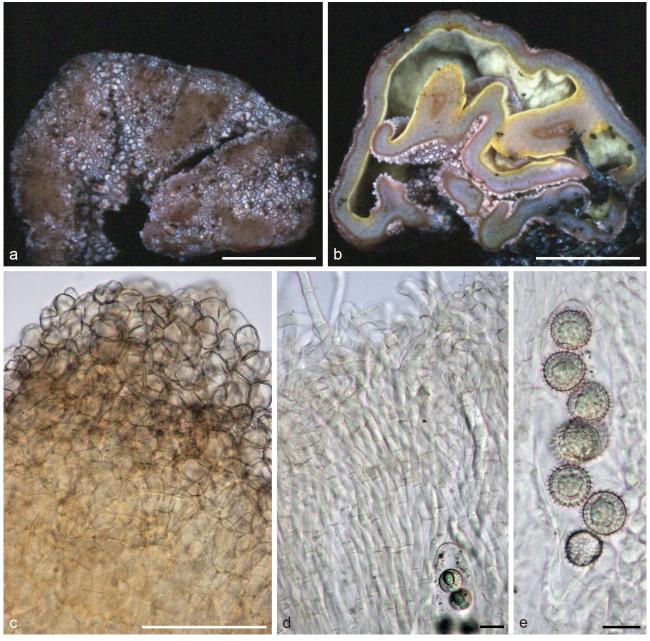


Fig. 11 Amylascus procerus (CORDC4233, holotype). a. Fresh ascoma showing excipulum with excipular warts; b. fresh ascoma showing gleba and smooth epithecium; c. excipular wart; d. hymenium showing overgrowth of asci by paraphyses; e. ascus with ascospores (immature). — Scale bars: a, b = 0.5 cm; c = 100 μ m; d = 20 μ m; f = 10 μ m.

to those on the surface. Epithecium lines the cavities and canals. Odor not recorded. *Excipulum* 160–650 μ m thick, with conical warts up to 500 μ m high in the crevices, but shorter, up to 300 μ m on exposed surfaces of excipulum, hyaline to light brown in water and KOH, composed of large isodiametric to ovoid cells, up to 52 × 30 μ m, walls 0.8–1 μ m thick, medullary excipulum hyaline to lighter brown; of similar-sized cells to ectal excipulum. *Epithecium* hyaline, composed of parallel to inter-

woven paraphyses, 8 μ m diam, even to slightly inflated at tips to 10 μ m, exceed ascus by 180–280 μ m, tips free or interwoven to form epithecium, in some places similar to excipulum with brown warts up to 200 μ m high, composed of isodiametric to oblong rounded cells. Occasional oleiferous hyphae present among asci. *Asci* clavate, with croziers, inamyloid, 240–280 \times 40–48 μ m, with 4–8 ascospores arranged irregularly biseriately. *Ascospores* globose, filled with one large oil droplet at

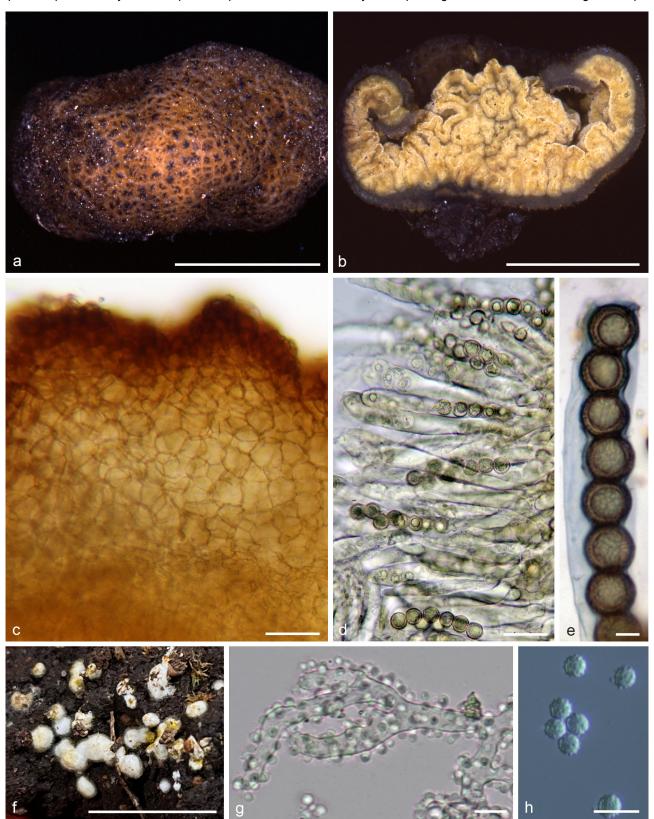


Fig. 12 a=f. *Amylascus verus* ascoma (CORDC4248, holotype), g=i. mitotic spore mat of *A. verus* (MES-4218, MES-4227). a. Fresh ascoma showing excipulum with low excipular warts; b. fresh ascoma showing gleba; c. section through excipulum; d. hymenium in gleba; e. amyloid ascus with mature ascospores (Melzer's reagent); f. mitotic spore mat (MES-4218); g. conidiophore with immature mitotic spores (MES-4227); h. mature mitotic spores showing warts (MES-4227). — Scale bars: a, b, f = 1 cm; c, d = 50 μ m; e, g, h, = 10 μ m.

maturity, ornamented with truncate spines, light yellow-brown when mature, $19-22(-23.9)~\mu m$ diam, Q = 1, av. $21.5~\mu m$ diam excluding spines, spines (1–)1.7–2.9(–3.4) μm , av. $2.5~\mu m$ high, some spine tips coalesce, without a perispore covering the spines; ascospore wall 1.5 μm thick.

Distribution & Ecology — Southern South America (Argentina). Hypogeous in montane forests of *Lophozonia obliqua*, *L. alpina*, and *Nothofagus dombeyi*, autumn (Apr.). Known from a single collection.

No other ascomata collections known. Mitotic spore mats unknown.

Notes — This is one of only two species of *Amylascus* known to have an epithecium of paraphyses with mostly free to loosely interwoven tips such that much of the epithecium is markedly different in texture than the excipulum. The epithecium in A. luteosporus is more rudimentary than in A. procerus. Amylascus luteosporus also has a palisade of paraphyses, but not all of them exceed the asci and those that do exceed the asci are less organized. The ascoma in the collection may not be fully mature. While we measured only ascospores that had the hallmarks of maturity (thick, refractive walls), many ascospores were immature. When additional, mature specimens are collected, the range and average of ascospore size may be amended. Amylascus procerus is phylogenetically supported in a clade that includes an undescribed species (Amylascus sp. 1) known only from DNA sequences of Nothofagaceae ECM root tips, mitotic spore mats, and an immature ascoma.

Amylascus verus Healy & M.E. Sm., sp. nov. — MycoBank MB 847737; Fig. 12

Etymology. The Latin epithet 'verus' means true, and refers to the true amyloid character of the asci of this species in response to Melzer's reagent, in keeping with the implication of the generic name. This is the only Amylascus species in South America that has amyloid asci.

Typus. Argentina, Neuquén, Lanín National Park, Ruta 48A Hua Hum, 3.5 km from the border with Chile, under Lophozonia alpina, L. obliqua, and Nothofagus dombeyi, 25 Apr. 2001, E. Cázares, L. Domínguez, M.A. Castellano, C. Barroetaveña JT26238 (holotype CORD-C4248; isotype FLAS-F-69554).

Ascomata knobby, convoluted, up to 23 x 15 mm, sessile. Excipular surface brown with reddish tints, verrucose with low warts. Interior hollow, lined with velvety hymenium, convoluted towards the surface, yellow with castaneus brown subhymenium, no epithecium. Odor not detected. Excipulum 150-396 µm thick, outer excipulum with low warts up to 274 µm high, brown in water, dextrinoid in Melzer's reagent and yellowish brown in KOH, composed of isodiametric to rectangular cells up to $50 \times$ 40 µm, outermost cells with thick walls, 3 µm thick, inner cell walls 1.5 µm. No epithecium. Gleba yellow in water and in KOH, composed of hymenium and subhymenium. Subhymenium of textura intricata, hyphae 7-8 µm diam. Occasional oleiferous hyphae present in the gleba. Hymenium of asci and paraphyses in an irregular palisade. Paraphyses variable in length with some shorter than asci and others extending beyond asci, not inflated, septate, hyaline, 165–198 × 5–7 µm. Asci cylindrical to broadly cylindrical, evenly but diffusely amyloid, 180-260 × $28-40 \mu m$, including short pedicel $10-38(-63) \times 7.5-15 \mu m$ diam, arising from croziers, with 5-8 ascospores arranged uniseriately to irregularly biseriately in the ascus. Ascospores globose, ornamented with short spines, yellow, 16–18(–20) µm diam, Q = 1, av. 18 μ m diam excluding spines, spines 1–2 μ m, av. 1.5 µm high, walls 1 µm thick, enveloped by a perispore.

Mitotic spore mats composed of white hyphae with yellow mitotic spores (mature) that develop in small patches on soil surface. Basal hyphae yellowish brown to reddish brown, grow-

ing together in bundles of parallel hyphae, smooth, even, septate, $3.5-5.8~\mu m$ diam. Hyphae subtending the conidiophores hyaline to light yellow, smooth, loosely interwoven, septate, $4.3-7.7~\mu m$ diam. Conidiophores smooth, hyaline, branching, but branches of uneven lengths with one branch usually much longer than the other (e.g., $17~\mu m$ long and $44~\mu m$ long), gently curved at various angles, and width variable on the same branch $6.5-9.9~\mu m$ diam. Polyblastic mitotic spores produced synchronously from denticles ($\le 1~\mu m$ long) along conidiophore branches. Mitotic spores globose to subglobose, dry, hydrophobic, warted, $(4.5-)4.6-5.5(-5.7)~\mu m$ diam, av. $5.1~\mu m$ diam including warts, Q = 1-1.1; warts $0.43~\mu m$ high, unevenly distributed along the mitotic spore wall.

Distribution & Ecology — Southern South America (Chile and Argentina). Hypogeous in montane *Nothofagaceae* forests, autumn (Apr.). Ascomata known from a single collection.

No other ascomata collections known.

Mitotic spore mat collections examined. CHILE, Maule, Cauquenes, Reserva Nacional Los Ruiles, in forest of Fuscospora alessandrii, Lophozonia glauca, N. dombeyi (-35.833889S – -72.508611W), 265 m a.s.l., 14 May 2022, B. Lemmond MES-4218 (FLAS-F-70744); ibid., B. Lemmond MES-4227 (FLAS-F-70753).

Notes — This species is characterized by its irregular palisade of cylindrical to broadly cylindrical amyloid asci with clearly differentiated paraphyses, yellow ascospores whose ornamentation is encompassed by a perispore, and the lack of an epithecium. This is the only known species of *Amylascus* from South America in which the asci are amyloid in Melzer's reagent and is also the only South American species that lacks an epithecium. Our multi-locus phylogeny (Fig. 2) places *A. verus* in a well-supported clade with the Australian species *A. hallingii*, which also has amyloid asci. In our ITS phylogeny, *A. verus* clusters closely with undescribed species *Amylascus* sp. 9 and *Amylascus* sp. 10, both of which are known from mitotic spore mats and/or environmental samples (e.g., ECM roots, bird feces samples).

Nothoamylascus Healy & M.E. Sm. gen. nov. — MycoBank MB 847738

Etymology. 'Notho' meaning in close agreement with Amylascus, but different. 'Notho' also refers to the occurrence of the genus in Nothofagaceae forests.

Ascoma a ptychothecium, hypogeous. Excipulum composed of textura angularis or textura globulosa, with large isodiametric to ovoid cells, intermixed with oleiferous hyphae. Gleba composed of asci and paraphyses in a palisade. Asci cylindrical, evenly amyloid in Melzer's reagent. Ascospores globose, ornamented with truncated spines. Mitotic spore mats in small clusters, epigeous on soil or hypogeous, white with pinkish brown areas, spore mass pink when young but yellow at maturity, mitotic spores nearly smooth to minutely warted, globose to subglobose.

Distribution & Ecology — Known only from South America. Ectomycorrhizal with species of *Nothofagaceae*.

Type. Nothoamylascus erubescens Healy & M.E. Sm.

Nothoamylascus erubescens Healy & M.E. Sm., sp. nov. — MycoBank MB 847739; Fig. 13

Etymology. The Latin epithet 'erubescens' means 'turning red' and refers to the color change of the mitotic spore mat that is white when young but then turns pinkish red to reddish brown at maturity.

Typus. Argentina, Río Negro, Parque Nacional Huapi, Chalhuaco Rd. south of Bariloche, 6 km north of Refugio Neumeyer, 41 14.536 71 17.226, 23 Apr. 2001, *J.M. Trappe JT26170* (holotype CORD-C4252; isotype FLAS-F-69560).

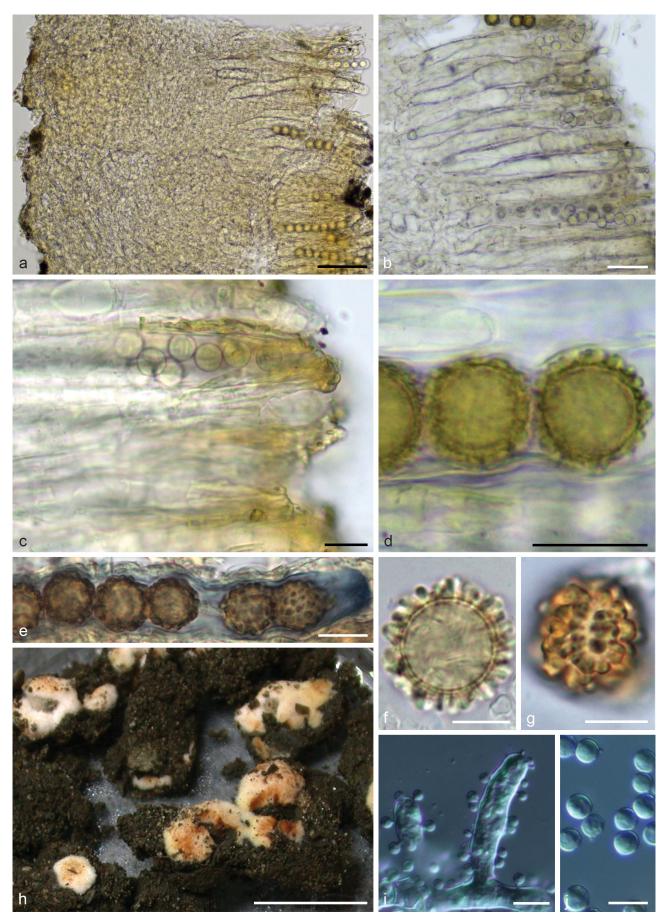


Fig. 13 a=g. *Nothoamylascus erubescens* ascoma (CORDC4252, holotype), h=j. *N. erubescens* mitotic spore mat (MES-2158). a. Cross section of ascoma; b. cross section through hymenium; c. hymenium of asci and paraphyses with yellow contents; d. mature yellow ascospores in ascus; e. amyloid ascus and ascospores (Melzer's reagent); f. ascospore (immature); g. ascospore (mature, Melzer's reagent); h. mitotic spore mat (MES-2158); i. conidiophore (MES-2158); j. mature mitotic spores (MES-2160). — Scale bars: $a = 100 \mu m$; $b = 50 \mu m$; $c = 20 \mu m$; f, g, i, $c = 10 \mu m$; h = 1 cm.

Ascoma infolded, convoluted, with a basal tuft of hyphae. Yellow brown, hairless except for basal attachment. Gleba grayish white when fresh then pale brown with pale orange veins when dry. Odor not recorded. Excipulum 269-336 µm thick, hyaline to light brown in water and KOH, brown in Melzer's reagent, composed of textura angularis, up to 17 × 22 μm, walls 1.5 μm thick, with occasional large, rounded cells up to 39 \times 32 μ m, and oleiferous hyphae, yellow, 6.6 µm diam at septum, inflated to 9.5 µm, medullary excipulum, if present, not recognizable. Gleba composed of a hymenium and subhymenium. Subhymenium of textura intricata, hyphal walls 1 µm thick. Epithecium lacking. Hymenium composed of a palisade of asci and paraphyses that are more or less equal in length to asci, hyaline to yellow (at least near tips), 8 µm diam, even to slightly inflated at tips to 12.5 µm diam, walls 1 µm thick. Asci cylindric, with croziers, evenly amyloid, $248-300 \times 20-29 \, \mu m$ tapering to 8 μm diam near base, with 8 ascospores arranged uniseriately in the ascus. Ascospores globose, ornamented with course spines, yellow in water and KOH, brown in Melzer's reagent when mature, 15-19 µm diam, Q = 1, av. 16.7 µm diam excluding spines, spines 1-3.5 µm, av. 2.2 µm high, without a perispore covering the spines; ascospore walls 1 µm thick.

Mitotic spore mats composed of white hyphae that turns pinkish to reddish brown in some places, with white mitotic spores that become yellow at maturity. Mitotic spore mats develop in small patches on the soil surface, patches up to ~1 cm diam. Subtending hyphae smooth, hyaline to pinkish brown, branching at right angles, not conidiogenous, conidiophores rising from subtending hyphae, smooth, hyaline, branching, but branches of uneven lengths, 7–7.7 μ m diam at septum, not inflated, conidiogenous tips 5.4– 7.5μ m diam. Polyblastic mitotic spores produced synchronously from denticles, 0.6– 0.8μ m long, 1μ m wide, along conidiophore branches. Mitotic spores globose to subglobose, dry, hydrophobic, rough, 5– 6μ m diam, av. 5.1μ m diam, warts miniscule, well-separated on spore surface, hyaline under transmitted light.

Distribution & Ecology — South America (Chile and Argentina), ascomata hypogeous and mitospore mats epigeous on soil in montane forests of *Lophozonia alpina*, *L. obliqua*, *Nothofagus pumilio*, and *N. dombeyi*, autumn (Apr.).

Other ascomata collections examined. Argentina, Rio Negro, Nahuel Huapi National Park, Chalhuaco rd., south of Bariloche, 6 km north of Refugio Neumeyer, under *Nothofagus pumilio*, 23 Apr. 2001, *C. Barroetaveña JT26175* (CORD, FLAS-F-69552).

Mitotic spore mats examined. Argentina, Cerro Otto, up the mountain from Bariloche, on soil in Nothofagaceae forest, 17 Mar 2012, M.E. Smith & D.H. Pfister MES-574 (DUKE); Río Negro Arroyo Goye, along a slope at trail edge on exposed soil in N. dombeyi forest (41 06 24.8S – 71 31 9.7W) 926 m a.s.l., 29 Oct. 2015, A. Mujic AR15-002 (FLAS-F-63723, CORDC5253); Nahuel Huapi National Park, 1 km before Lago Hess on soil in Nothofagus antarctica and N. dombeyi forest, 18 May 2016, N. Policelli MES-2158 (FLAS-F-64773); ibid., R. Healy MES-2160 (FLAS-F-64774). — CHILE, Osomo Puyehue National Park, foothills of Volcan Puyehue, up the road past El Caulle north of Rio Golgol, on bare soil in Nothofagus dombeyi forest, along bank of dry creek bed, 4 May 2016, R. Healy MES-1651 (FLAS-F-64664).

Notes — As with many of the taxa discussed here, ascomata of *N. erubescens* are apparently quite rare. The ascomata of this species are known only from two collections, but DNA sequences could not be produced from one of the two specimens (JT26175). Unfortunately, our description of the ascoma is solely from dried, fragmented material and no photographs of the fresh collections exist. Future collections will be needed to describe all the variation present in this species, particularly the appearance of the fresh ascoma. This species can be recognized by the combination of the truffle-like form, amyloid asci, regularly formed hymenium, lack of an epithecium, and yellow ascospores that turn brown in Melzer's solution and lack a perispore.

Although ascomata of this species are rare or difficult to find, the mitotic spore mats have been collected from multiple sites in *Nothofagaceae* forests of Chile and Argentina, and a sequence of this species was also detected from an ectomycorrhizal root of *Nothofagus pumilio*. The mitotic spore mats of this species differ from those produced by *Amylascus* in the reddish brown strands of hyphae in the otherwise white mitotic spore mat. The mature mitotic spores are light yellow, like those of *Amylascus* species. We also detected morphologically similar mitotic spore mats at several sites in Chile that were resolved as a second, undescribed species of *Nothoamylascus* (Fig. 2) for which no ascomata have yet been found.

DISCUSSION

Phylogeny, morphology, ecology, distribution, and revised concept of Amylascus

Here we provide the first revision of *Amylascus* since Trappe (1971) erected the genus, based on A. herbertianus as the type. Trappe (1975) added a second species, A. tasmanicus, and for more than 40 years Amylascus was thought to include only two species and to be restricted to Australia. However, we show that Amylascus is considerably more phylogenetically diverse, morphologically varied, and geographically dispersed than previously realized. To this point, our description of five new species from South America and two new species from Australia substantially expands the morphological concept of Amylascus, and also demonstrates its widespread 'southern Gondwanan' distribution (Fig. 1). Interestingly, a similar biogeographic distribution pattern has been found with several other lineages of ectomycorrhizal Pezizales, including members of the genera Aleurina, Geomorium, Nothojafnea, and Ruhlandiella (Pfister 1984, Bonito et al. 2013, Kraisitudomsook et al. 2019, 2020).

Through phylogenetic analyses we also discovered a unique lineage that we describe here as *Nothoamylascus*. The ascomata of this group appear to be quite rare, thus far consisting of only two individual ascomata of the type species, *N. erubescens*. Despite the small amount of material available for morphological characterization, we felt it necessary to describe *Nothoamylascus*, in part because this new genus is the well-supported sister taxon of a clade that includes both the Southern Hemisphere genus *Amylascus* and the Northern Hemisphere genera *Pachyphlodes* and *Plicariella*. The discovery of this new lineage in South America also indicates that additional cryptic diversity within this group of *Pezizaceae* may also be present, but not yet discovered, in Australia and other parts of Australasia.

Our phylogenetic analysis (Fig. 2), which includes ectomycorrhizal root tip sequences from multiple species of South American *Lophozonia* and *Nothofagus*, also adds additional new evidence that *Amylascus* is ectomycorrhizal with *Nothofagaceae*, providing important context regarding the trophic ecology of these fungi and ecological constraints on their distribution. Although there are no available DNA sequences from ectomycorrhizal root tip sequences of *Amylascus* species from Australia, the described Australian species have been collected in soil and leaf litter beneath species of *Myrtaceae*, and thus likely form ectomycorrhizas with *Eucalyptus* and related host plants. Further studies looking at ectomycorrhizal roots of Australasian species of *Myrtaceae* and *Nothofagcaeae*, especially from New Zealand, are needed to bring to light the evolutionary history and host range of *Amylascus* in the southern hemisphere.

Even though ascomata of *Amylascus* are rarely found during truffle surveys, by including data on mitotic spore mats, ectomycorrhizal roots, and mycophagous bird feces we nonetheless documented high species diversity and prevalence in

native forest soil based on ITS rDNA sequences. Although mitotic spore mats have been previously documented in the closely related genera Pachyphlodes and Plicariella (Healy et al. 2013, 2015, 2018), our specimens constitute the first report of mitotic spore mats from Amylascus (Fig. 2). The role of these mitotic spores is unknown, however, they are thought to play a role either in sexual outcrossing (e.g., spermatia), as vegetative propagules (e.g., conidia), or both (Healy et al. 2013). Altogether, we documented an estimated 13 species of Amylascus and two species of Nothoamylascus from mitotic spore mats, including ten species that remain undescribed because ascomata for these taxa have yet to be found. We found mitotic spore mats to be particularly informative because in many cases they significantly expanded the known range of a species. For example, Amylascus fuscosporus and A. verus were each known from only a single collection of ascomata from Lanín National Park in Argentina, yet both were documented as mitotic spore mats from Chile in 2022 (A. fuscoporus from Cerro Cayumangue in the Nuble region and A. verus from the Reserva Nacional Los Ruiles in the Maule region).

Mitotic spore mats of Amylascus are more variable in their sporulating habit than those found thus far in the Northern Hemisphere genera Pachyphlodes and Plicariella. Specifically, while mitotic spore mats of Pachyphlodes and Plicariella are typically found on top of the soil and leaf litter, Amylascus mitotic spore mats have sometimes been found on top of the soil but are more frequently detected below the surface of the soil and litter. Although we cannot explain why Amylascus mitotic spore mats occur belowground, we hypothesize that this growth form could be an adaptation to, or consequence of, the mycophagous animals that inhabit the South American Nothofagaceae forests. A recent study by Caiafa et al. (2021) found that two species of common endemic birds, Scelorchilus rubecula and Pteroptochos tarnii, regularly consume hypogeous fungi in Chilean Nothofagaceae forests, including Amylascus species. Although Caiafa et al. (2021) produced relatively short ITS1 fragments of the fungi from fecal samples, we were nonetheless able to detect three distinct species of Amylascus that were consumed by birds. All of these remain undescribed but have been found as mitotic spore mats and on Nothofagaceae ECM root tips (Fig. 2 – Amylascus sp. 4, sp. 10 and a species whose molecular signature is between sp. 6 and sp. 7). When Scelorchilus rubecula and Pteroptochos tarnii are foraging for fungi and other foods in the understory, they regularly disturb large patches of soil and leaf litter. We have observed individuals of Pteroptochos tarnii using their feet to forcefully throw litter and soil up to a meter or more, suggesting that this bird may be responsible for dispersing mitotic spores from Amylascus mitotic spore mats (Smith & Caiafa, pers. obs.) in addition to eating the ascomata and dispersing the ascospores in their feces. Clearly, more studies are needed to assess this hypothesis, and to determine which animals might be involved in dispersing spores of Amylascus species in Australia and potentially also in New Zealand, where bird mycophagy seems to be a common phenomenon (Elliot & Vernes 2019, Elliot et al. 2019).

In addition to the new observations on the ecology and distribution of *Amylascus* in South America described above, the seven new *Amylascus* species that are described here significantly expand the morphological diversity within the genus. *Amylascus* originally included only two species, *A. herbertianus* and *A. tasmanicus* (Fig. 4, 7), which shared features such as a well-developed epithecium and globose to irregular amyloid asci that are not organized in a hymenium. With the addition of the new taxa described here, we expand the diversity in a number of morphological characters, including ascus shape (ovoid to cylindrical), ascospore color (hyaline, yellow, or dark brown), ascospore ornamentation (free spines or with spines encom-

passed by a perispore), epithecial structure (hyphal with free ends or composed of textura angularis similar to the excipulum), and glebal tissue (ranging from hymenial with a palisade of asci and paraphyses to disorganized with asci randomly distributed in the gleba). The amyloid response of the ascus in Melzer's reagent is a defining feature of the epigeous Pezizaceae that forcibly discharge their ascospores, but this feature is absent in Marcelleina, and many truffle-like Pezizaceae, including species of Cazia, Eremiomyces, Mattirolomyces, Terfezia, and others (Hansen et al. 2001, Læssøe & Hansen 2007, Kovács et al. 2011). Intrageneric variability of an amyloid reaction is unusual within the Pezizaceae, although it has been reported for the truffle-like Hydnobolites, Pachyphlodes (Læssøe & Hansen 2007, as 'Pachyphloeus'), and Ruhlandiella (Kraisitudomsook et al. 2019). Within Amylascus we also see intrageneric variability of the amyloid reaction of asci in Melzer's solution. Amyloid asci are present in known species of Australian Amylascus as well as the new South American species A. verus, but absent in the South American A. cineraceus, A. domingueziae, A. fuscosporus, and A. procerus (Fig. 1). These four inamyloid species form a well-supported phylogenetic clade. Nothoamylascus erubescens retains the amyloid asci and has other characteristics of epigeous Pezizaceae, including a hymenium of cylindrical asci and paraphyses in a palisade.

Lineage divergence time analysis

Our dating analysis of the larger clade (which includes Amylascus, Luteoamylascus, Nothoamylascus, Pachyphlodes) suggests an origin that is consistent with the breakup of the Gondwana supercontinent during the late Cretaceous (60–100 Ma) (Fig. 3). Nothoamylascus started to diverge 55-89 Ma, prior to the final breakup of Gondwana and the initiation of the Antarctic glaciation near the Eocene/Oligocene boundary c. 35 Ma (DeConto & Pollard 2003, Sanmartín & Ronquist 2004). At the time, Antarctica had a warm-temperate climate and is thought to have been forested (until c. 25 Ma). This timeline is consistent with the divergence time of Amylascus (20-37 Ma), and a Gondwanan origin. Diversification within the *Amylascus* clade is more recent, with divergence time estimates between Australian and South American species starting around 25 Ma and up to 14 Ma, as a result of biotic isolation and drastic climatic changes generated from the onset of the Antarctic glaciation. Although no Amylascus species occurs on both continents, long-distance dispersal between South America and Australia cannot be excluded as a possibility to explain species distribution patterns, especially for the A. verus-A. hallingii clade for which tMRCA was estimated at 8-22 Ma. However, all estimates must be regarded with caution when considering the possibility of extinct taxa and the undersampling of Australia, and potentially New Zealand, and the underlying assumptions involved in estimating divergence times. Our estimates for divergence times for the Helvellaceae and for the Morchellaceae-Discinaceae clades closely follow previous studies based on the absolute rate of molecular evolution for 28S (Bonito et al. 2013, Kraisitudomsook et al. 2020), which gave a mean of 35 Ma for Helvellaceae and 90 Ma for the Morchellaceae-Discinaceae clade.

Phylogenetic relationships and morphological connections

Pachyphlodes is sister to Amylascus in our analyses, a result that is consistent with previous findings. Dissing & Pfister (1981) made the connection between Pachyphlodes and Scabropezia (= Plicariella) based on morphological similarity, and this was later verified via molecular phylogenetic analyses (Norman & Egger 1999, Hansen et al. 2005). Pachyphlodes species are mostly truffle-like fungi, but this genus also includes cup-shaped species (these are currently assigned to the genus Plicariella but will be transferred to Pachyphlodes at a later date). Plicari-

ella species are the only known cup-shaped, epigeous members in the Amylascus-Pachyphlodes-Nothoamylascus-Luteoamylascus clade. Species in the genus Pachyphlodes share many morphological features with species of Amylascus. Specifically, species of Pachyphlodes have large-celled textura angularis in the ectal excipulum, often have a hyphal tuft at the base, have globose, ornamented ascospores with a single large guttule, form ectomycorrhizas with forest trees, and produce anamorphs that are morphologically similar to those in Amylascus species (Healy et al. 2013, 2015). Pachyphlodes species also have a similar range of variation in characters as reported here for species of Amylascus. Pachyphlodes species are tomentose (e.g., P. conglomerata) or hairless except for the basal tuft of hyphae, have asci that are globose, clavate, or cylindrical, have asci that are amyloid (e.g., P. melanoxantha) or inamyloid, have spores that are arranged uniseriately, biseriately, or irregularly in the ascus, have spores that are hyaline, yellow, or brown, and have spores that possess or lack a perispore (Dissing & Pfister 1981, Hansen et al. 2005, Tedersoo et al. 2010, Healy et al. 2015, 2018).

Luteoamylascus aculeatus is the earliest diverging lineage of the Amylascus-Pachyphlodes-Nothoamylascus-Luteoamylascus clade. It is a monospecific truffle genus described from the Mediterranean Basin and is strongly supported as sister to the Amylascus-Pachyphlodes-Nothoamylascus lineage, but L. aculeatus is consistently resolved on a long branch (Fig. 2; Cabero et al. 2016). Cabero et al. (2016) provided molecular phylogenetic evidence for an ectomycorrhizal ecology and for mitotic spore mat production within the Luteoamylascus lineage, although no ECM root data or mitotic spore mat data are specifically linked to L. aculeatus. Luteoamylascus aculeatus can be distinguished from most *Pachyphlodes* and *Amylascus* species by its smooth excipular surface, but the appearance of the excipular surface of Nothoamylascus is currently poorly characterized and requires additional new specimens so that it can be compared accurately to that of L. aculeatus.

In our lineage divergence time analysis, *Sarcopeziza sicula* was inferred as sister to the *Amylascus-Pachyphlodes-Nothoamylascus-Luteoamylascus* clade, albeit with low statistical support. This relationship was also suggested in the multi-locus analyses by Agnello et al. (2018) and Van Vooren et al. (2021). *Sarcopeziza* is monospecific and known only from the Mediterranean Basin. This species produces semi-hypogeous, urn-like apothecia on soil, has amyloid asci, and its trophic ecology has not been resolved (Agnello et al. 2018). This hypothesized sister relationship requires further investigation.

CONCLUSIONS

In the first revisionary systematics of Amylascus in over 40 years, we used multi-locus phylogenetic inference to generate a nearly fully resolved phylogeny for Southern Hemisphere Amylascus. In doing so, we discovered and described a new truffle genus (Nothoamylascus) and species (N. erubescens), to accommodate a new lineage based on collections of an ascoma and multiple mitotic spore mats that share key features with Amylascus species. Divergence time estimates further clarify their distant relationships to Northern Hemisphere genera, including Pachyphlodes and Luteoamylascus. By integrating environmental sequence data into the phylogeny (e.g., mitotic spore mat collections, ectomycorrhizal root surveys, and bird feces samples), we were able to describe seven new Amylascus species, including five from South America and two from Australia, expand the current known range and ecology for most of these species, and further phylogenetically characterize 14 other Amylascus species and one Nothoamylascus species known only from environmental sequence data. We

document the morphological diversity of ascomata and mitotic spore mats that are phylogenetically affiliated with *Amylascus* and morphologically similar to those in *Pachyphlodes*. Finally, we revise the morphological descriptions of the two described species (*A. herbertianus* and *A. tasmanicus*). Overall, this new morphological delimitation expands the definition of *Amylascus* to include taxa with a wide range of features, including variation in the amyloid reaction of the ascus in Melzer's reagent, ascospore color (hyaline, yellow, or dark brown), ascospore ornamentation (free spines or with spines encompassed by a perispore), epithecial structure (hyphal with free ends, or composed of *textura angularis* like the excipulum), and glebal tissue that ranges from hymenial with a palisade of asci and paraphyses to disorganized with asci randomly distributed in the gleba.

KEY TO DESCRIBED SPECIES OF AMYLASCUS AND NOTHOAMYLASCUS

	Ascus wall rapidly turning blue in Melzer's reagent 2
1.	Ascus wall not turning blue in Melzer's reagent 7
	Ascomata found in South America with <i>Nothofagaceae</i> . 6 Ascomata found in Australasia with <i>Eucalyptus</i> or other ectomycorrhizal <i>Myrtaceae</i>
3.	Ascospores yellow and (15–)17–22(–23) µm, ornamented with long spines, sometimes recurved, lacking a perispore
3.	Ascospores with short, straight truncate spines, spine tips embedded in a perispore
	Asci ovoid to oblong, mature ascospores 18–24 µm and light brown
	Asci cylindrical to clavate, mature ascospores yellow 5
	Asci clavate, up to $181 \times 82 \mu m$ wide, paraphyses not in a pallisade, lacking an organized hymenium, ascospores yellow and $17.7-20.3(-21.5) \mu m$
5.	Asci cylindrical to broadly cylindrical, up to 265 μ m long, 40 μ m wide, asci and paraphyses in a palisade with a loosely organized hymenium, ascospores yellow and 16.5–20.6 μ m
^	•
6.	Epithecium absent, ascospores yellow and 15–19 µm, no perispore
6.	Epithecium present or absent, ascospores yellow and 16–18(–20) µm, perispore present
7.	Asci and paraphyses in a palisade, paraphyses exceeding asci in length and forming a patchy epithecium that is notably different in structure from the excipulum, ascospores $19-22(-24) \mu m$, lightly pigmented (almost hyaline)
	Asci and paraphyses not in an easily recognizable palisade, epithecium resembling the excipulum, ascospores obviously pigmented some shade of brown or gray
8.	Ascospores light brown and less than 18 µm
8.	Ascospores dark brown to gray, ≥ 18 μm 9
9.	Ascospores (22–)24–27(–28) μm, av. 24.4 μm
9.	Ascospores 18–22(–24) µm, av. 20.5 µm A. fuscosporus

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Declaration on conflict of interest The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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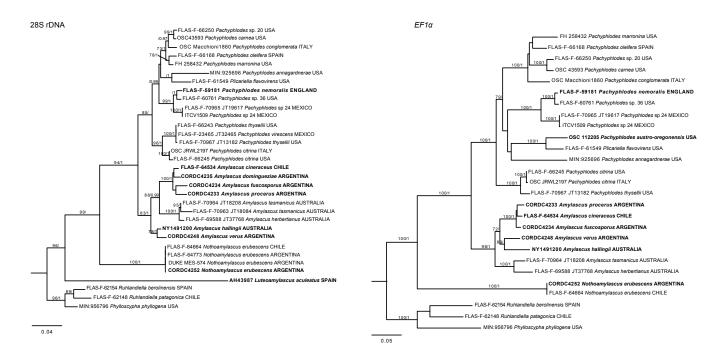
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Supplementary material

- **Fig. S1** Best ML phylograms from separate RAxML analyses of 28S rDNA, *EF1α*, *rpb1* and *rpb2* sequences. Branch supports show bootstrap values ≥ 70 % on top, and posterior probability ≥ 0.95 on bottom. Phylogenetic trees rooted with *Ruhlandiella* and *Phylloscypha* (Pezizaceae) as outgroup taxa.
- **Table S1** Taxa included in RAxML analysis of ITS sequences. Fields include species, the country where collected, collector number, herbarium accession number, the lifestage that was sequenced (ascoma, mitotic spore mat, or ectomycorrhiza, ECM) or if the sequence was detected from bird feces, the GenBank accession number, and the published reference(s) for the GenBank accession numbers. Types (holotype or isotype) are in **bold** text.
- **Table S2** Sequences of 28S rDNA, *EF1α*, *rpb1* and *rpb2* downloaded from GenBank for the lineage divergence time analysis. Fields include species, the country where collected, the collector number, the herbarium or culture accession number, the source of the DNA (ascoma or mitotic spore mat), the GenBank accession number, and the published reference(s) for the GenBank accession numbers. Types (holotype or isotype) are in **bold** text.



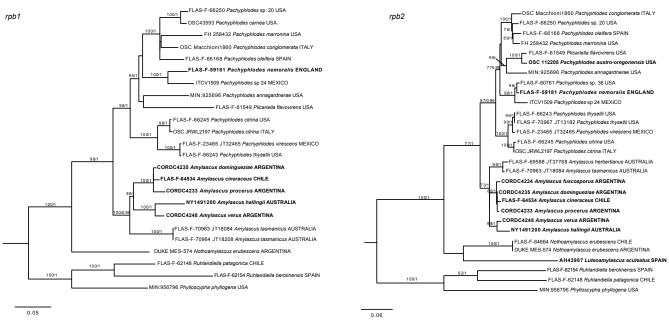


Fig. S1 Best ML phylograms from separate RAxML analyses of 28S rDNA, $EF1\alpha$, rpb1 and rpb2 sequences. Branch supports show bootstrap values $\geq 70\%$ on the left and posterior probability ≥ 0.95 on the right. Phylogenetic trees rooted with *Ruhlandiella* and *Phylloscypha* (*Pezizaceae*) as outgroup taxa.

Table S1 Taxa included in RAXML analysis of ITS sequences. Fields include species, the country where collecter number, herbarium accession number, the lifestage that was sequenced (ascoma, mitotc spore mat, or ectomycorrhizal root tip, ECM) or if the sequence was detected from bird feces, the GenBank accession number, and the published reference(s) for the GenBank accession numbers. Types (holotype or isotype) are in bold text.

Taxon	Geographic origen	Collector number	Herbarium/Culture collection	Lifestage	ITS	Reference
Amylascus cineraceus	Chile Chile	MES-1772 MES-3295	FLAS-F-64536 FLAS-F-68923	spore mat ascoma	MT461378 OP288006	this publication this publication
	Chile Chile	MES-3296 MES-1770	Destroyed FLAS-F-64534, SCO	spore mat ascoma	OP288007 KY462556	this publication Truong et al. (2017), this publication
Amylascus domingueziae	Argentina Argentina	JT26239 MES-1295	CORDC4236 FLAS-F-64667	ascoma spore mat	MT461383 KY462456	this publication Truong et al. (2017)
	Argentina Argentina	MES-1296 MES-1352	FLAS-F-63988 FLAS-F-64663	spore mat	MT461377 MT461376	this publication this publication
	Argentina	JT26237	CORDC4235, FLAS-F-69557	ascoma	KJ720815	this publication
Amylascus fuscosporus	Chile Argentina	MES-4151 JT26240	FLAS-F-70677 CORDC4234, FLAS-F-69555	spore mat ascoma	OP339684 KJ720816	this publication this publication
Amylascus hallingii	Australia	AQ794771	NYBG1491200, FLAS-F-69584	ascoma	KJ720817	this publication
Amylascus herbertianus	Australia	H4036 H5626	OSC, FLAS-F-69587	ascoma	MT461384	this publication
	Australia Australia	JT37768 _ _	OSC, FLAS-F-69588 OSC, FLAS-F-69588 MFI 2364119	ascoma ascoma ascoma	00534550 KT318375	this publication Cabero et al. (2016)
Amylascus luteosporus	Australia	H6013	FLAS-F-69585, OSC	ascoma	MN653041	this publication
Amylascus procerus	Argentina	JT26241	CORDC4233, FLAS-F-69556	ascoma	KJ720814	this publication
Amylascus sp. 1	Argentina	MES-1975	FLAS-F-64651	spore mat	KY462629	Truong et al. (2017)
	Chile	MES-3343 MES-3344	FLAS-F-68915 Destroved	ascoma spore mat	OP288008 OP288009	this publication this publication
	Chile	MES-3372	FLAS-F-65794	spore mat	OP288010	this publication
	Chile	MES-3397	FLAS-F-65809	spore mat	OP288011	this publication
	Argentina	R8M4.3,aPachy.ARG_N03		Spore mat ECM	JX316422, UDB007201	Nouhra et al. (2013)
Amylascus sp. 2	Chile	MVC755	FLAS-F-65880	spore mat	OP288013	this publication
Amylascus sp. 3	Argentina	MES-1328	FLAS-F-64668, CORDC5116	spore mat	KY462462	Truong et al. (2017)
Amylascus sp. 4	Argentina	MES-1264	FLAS-F-63215	spore mat	KY462450	Truong et al. (2017)
	Chile	MES-3994 MES-4163	FLAS-F-70520 FLAS-F-70689	spore mat	OP339691	tills publication this publication
	Chile	MES-4186	FLAS-F-70712	spore mat	OP339702	this publication
	Chile	MES-4213	FLAS-F-70739	spore mat	OP339717	this publication
	Argentina	P5M5.7Pachy.ARG_N04	1 1	ECM	JX316304, UDB007082	oalala et al. (2021) Nouhra et al. (2013)
	Argentina	p6m5.7Pachy.ARG_N04		ECM	JX316320, UDB007098	Nouhra et al. (2013)
Amylascus sp. 5	Chile	MES-3988	FLAS-F-70514	spore mat	OP339572	this publication
Amylascus sp. 6	Chile	MES-1652	FLAS-F-62142	spore mat	MT461380	this publication
	Chile	MES-1633 MES-1824	FLAS-F-64442 FLAS-F-64578	spore mat	KY462574	tris publication Truong et al. (2017)
	Chile	MES-4049	FLAS-F-70575	spore mat	OP339611	this publication
	Chile Chile	MES-4087	FLAS-F-70613 -	spore mat	OP339639 OP341242	this publication Caiafa et al. (2021)
Amylascus so 7	Argentina	CSM1pPachy ARG NO6	ı	ECM	UX316274 UDB007052	Caiaia et al. (2021) Nouhra et al. (2013)
	Argentina	CHA04	1	ECM	JX316478, UDB008412	Nouhra et al. (2013)
	Argentina Argentina	CHA20x OTT04x	1 1	ECM	JX316479, UDB008433 JX316481, UDB008448	Nouhra et al. (2013) Nouhra et al. (2013)
Amylascus sp. 8	Australia	1	MURU6166	ascoma	UDB013487	ı
Amylascus sp. 9	Chile Chile	MES-2808 MES-2847	FLAS-F-65375 FLAS-F-66442	spore mat spore mat	MH930271 MT461379	this publication this publication
	Argentina	C6B1.16apPachy.ARG_N05	1	ECM	JX316239, UDB007017	Nouhra et al. (2013)

Taxon	Geographic origen	Collector number	Herbarium/Culture collection	Lifestage	ITS	Reference
Amylascus sp. 10	Chile Chile	MES-3964 OTU2410	FLAS-F-70490 -	spore mat Pteroptochos tarnii (huet-huet) feces	OP339554 OP391241	this publication Caiafa et al. (2021)
Amylascus sp. 11	Argentina Chile Chile Argentina	c6b9.16aPachy.ARG_N01 MES-4218 MES-4227 R6B7.15xbPachy.ARG_N01	– FLAS-F-70744 FLAS-F-70753 –	ECM spore mat spore mat ECM	JX316272, UDB007050 OP339721 OP339726 JX316396	Nouhra et al. (2013) this publication this publication Nouhra et al. (2013)
Amylascus sp. 12 Amylascus tasmanicus	Chile Australia	MES-4226 JT18208	FLAS-F-70752 OSC, FLAS-F-70964	spore mat ascoma	OP356749 MT461382	this publication this publication
Amylascus verus	Argentina	JT26238	CORDC4248, FLAS-F-69554	ascoma	JN102448	Healy et al. (2013), this publication
Nothoamylascus erubescens	Argentina Chile Argentina Argentina Argentina Argentina Argentina Chile Chile	AM-AR15-002 MES-1651 MES-2168 MES-2160 MES-573 MES-575 OTT05x MES-1825 MES-2807 MES-2807	FLAS-F-63723, CORDC5253 FLAS-F-64664 FLAS-F-64773 FLAS-F-64774 FLAS DUKE FLAS-F-64579 FLAS-F-64579 FLAS-F-64574	spore mat	MT461389 MT461392 MT461388 JX414201 JX414202 JX316482, UDB008450 KY462575 MT461390	this publication this publication this publication this publication Healy et al. (2013) Healy et al. (2013) Nouhra et al. (2013) Truong et al. (2017) this publication this publication
	Chile Chile	MES-412 MES-4120	FLAS-F-70638 FLAS-F-70646	spore mat	OP339659 OP339665	this publication this publication

Table S1 (cont.)

Table S2 Sequences of 28S rDNA, *EF1a*, *rpb1*, and *rpb2* downloaded from GenBank for the lineage divergence time analysis. Fields include species, the country where collected, the collector number, the herbarium or culture accession number, and the published reference(s) for the GenBank accession number, and the published reference(s) for the GenBank accession number. Types (holotype or isotype) are in **bold** text.

Taxon	Geographic origen	Collector number	Herbarium / Culture collection	Lifestage	rsn	TEF	RPB2	RPB1	Reference
Adelphella babingtonii	USA	KH.99.09 KH04042003-1 AETOI 57	C OSC 100081	ascoma	AF335123	KC109198	AY500467	JX943630	Hansen et al. (2013)
Aleuria aurantia	Sweden	KH.04.81 KH04012003-1 AFTOI -65	CCC 100018	ascoma	KC012661 AY544654	KC109217	JX943815	JX943715	Schoch et al. (2003) Schoch et al. (2009)
Anthracobia macrocystis	Denmark	KH.01.035		ascoma	KC012663		JX943777		Hansen et al. (2013)
	USA:OR	KH04042003-9, AFTOL73	OSC 100026	ascoma	AY544660	FJ238388	FJ238343	- X040600	Schoch et al. (2009)
Ascobolus carbonarius Ascobolus crenulatus	Denmark	KH.00.08 AFTOL-181	υ ₹	ascoma	AY500526 AY544678	_ DQ471061	AY 500459 DQ470893	JX943623 DQ471132	Hansen et al. (2013) Schoch et al. (2009)
Ascobolus denudatus	Denmark	KS.94.146	. 0	ascoma	AY500528		AY500460		Hansen et al. (2005)
	USA:IA	RH20061006, 1547	ISC	ascoma	MZ018856	00923302	00934083	OQ934085	this publication
Ascodesmis sphaerospora	NA O O	AFTOL 920	CBS 125.61		FJ176858	FJZ38391	FJ238346	- DO474426	Schoch et al. (2009)
Caloscypia luigeris	USA:CA USA:CA	KH.97.17	USC 1000062 FH	ascoma	KC012666	KC109202	JX943746	JX943631	Scriocii et al. (2009) Hansen et al. (2013)
Cheilymenia granulata	Sweden	KH.08.66	S	ascoma	KC012670	KC109225	JS943809	JX943709	Hansen et al. (2013)
Cheilymenia sclerotiorum	Sweden	KH.08.32	S	ascoma	KC012671	KC109227	JX943807	JX943707	Hansen et al. (2013)
Cheilymenia stercorea	8	AFTOL 148	OSC 100034	ascoma	AY544661	DQ471052	EF080826	DQ471123	Schoch et al. (2009)
Cheilymenia vitellina	Denmark	KH.01.32	C 44 4 4 4 6 6 5 6 5 6 5 6 5 6 5 6 6 6 6	ascoma	JX943808	KC109228	JX943808	JX943708	Hansen et al. (2013)
Daleomyces prillipsii (proteana v campbelli)	Estonia		I AAIM 199363	ascoma	I	M 1 093850	MIN8 166 / 4	ı	Vizzini et al. (2020)
Daleomyces petersii	놀		TAAM 187584	ascoma	ı	MT093849	MN816681	ı	Vizzini et al. (2020)
Disciotis venosa	ΑΝ	NSW 6543, AFTOL-179	NRRL 22213	ascoma	AY544667	DQ471060	DQ470892	DQ471131	Schoch et al. (2009)
Eleutherascus lectardii	France	CBS 626.71	OSC 100383	isolated from soil	DQ470966	KC109230	JX943759	JX943651	Hansen et al. (2013)
Galiella rufa	USA:NC	AFTOL-1297	CBS 135.92	ascoma	FJ176869	FJ238401	FJ238352	1	Schoch et al. (2009)
	USA:MA	DHP_05_600	Ξ·	ascoma	KC012674	KC109213	1	JX943642	Hansen et al. (2013)
Geoscypha tenacella (as Peziza subviolacea)	Denmark	KH.98.29	IJ	ascoma	AF335165	ı	AY 863001	ı	Hansen et al. (2001, 2005)
(as r ceieu susvisiaceu) Gvromitra californica	LISA·WA	AFTOI -176	OSC 100068	ascoma	AY544673	DO471059	DO470891	DO471130	Schoch et al. (2009)
Gyromitra esculenta	Finland	AFTOL-5017	CBS 335.73	ascoma	FJ176906	FJ238419))) ; ()	FJ238447	Schoch et al. (2009)
Hansenopezia decora	Croatia		CNF-2-10621	ascoma	MK514536	MK705936	MK673767	ı	Yuan et al. (2020)
Hansenopezia retrocurvata	Denmark	KS.94.182	O	ascoma	AF335159	ı	AY500516	ı	Hansen et al. (2001, 2005)
(as Peziza retrocurvata)	\$, 000000000000000000000000000000000000			1		1		
Helvella compressa	NA NA NA NA	AFTOL66, KH04042003-4	OSC-100019	ascoma	AY544655	DQ497604	DQ497513	- 1X042637	Schoch et al. (2009)
Helvella so	Noway Vewson	KH 03 21	Εc	ascoma	_ DO191678	KC109208	1X943752	JX943637	Hansen et al. (2013)
Hydnotryopsis	USA	JT 17231	oso	ascoma	AF335116		AY500472		Hansen et al. (2001, 2005)
lodophanus carneus	Denmark	JHP-00-027	O	ascoma	AY500534	ı	AY500506	ı	
lodophanus hyperboreus	Greenland	Gr-83-06	O	ascoma	AY500535	ı	AY500458	1	Hansen et al. (2005)
lonopezia gerardii	Denmark	TL-5693	0	ascoma	AY500546	KC109199	AY500513	JX943624	Hansen et al. (2013)
Lasiobolidium spirale	USA:WY		CBS /82./0	Isolated from cow dung	UQ220363	KC109249	JX943804	JX943/02	Hansen et al. (2013)
Laterdamyrascus acuteatus (Type) Malvinezia howsei	Denmark	КН 97 98	20021	ascoma	AE335146	1 1	AY500493	1 1	Cabelo et al. (2010) Hansen et al. (2001, 2005)
Marcelleina pseudoanthracina	Norway	KH.02.15	,正	ascoma	AY500538	KC109197	AY500509	JX943626	
Morchella esculenta	USA:WA	AFTOL-60, MV3	OSC-100041	ascoma	AY544664	DQ471046	DQ470880	DQ471117	Schoch et al. (2009)
Orbilia auricolor	ž	AFTOL-906, CBS 547.63	OSC 100243	isolated from soil	DQ470953	DQ471072	DQ470903	ı	Schoch et al. (2009)
Orbilia vinosa	Ψ.	AFTOL905, CBS 917.72	OSC 100241	Ϋ́	DQ470952	DQ471071	1	DQ471145	
Pachyella adnata	USA	DHP-02-496	王。	ascoma	AY500541	ı	AY500469	ı	Hansen et al. (2005)
Pachyella punctispora	Austria	KH.98.77	ပ (ascoma	AF335124	1 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	AY500468	1	Hansen et al. (2001, 2005)
Paragalactinia micnelli (as Peziza)	Denmark	IL-509Z	ى د	ascoma	AY500549	KC109201	AY 500494	JX943628	Hansen et al. (2013) Hanson at al. (2013)
Paragaracullia succosa (as Peziza) Dezize entemensis	Denmark	KH 98.07	ى د	ascolla	AF335166	1 1	AY500467	JA945029	Hansen et al. (2013)
	5	1)		2				(,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

Table S2 (cont.)

Taxon	Geographic origen	Collector number	Herbarium / Culture collection	Lifestage	rsn	TEF	RPB2	RPB1	Reference
Peziza badiofusca	Sweden	KH.98.113	O	ascoma	AF335132	ı	AY500475	ı	Hansen et al. (2001, 2005)
Peziza depressa	Denmark	KH.98.28	O	ascoma	AF335135	1	AY500474	ı	Hansen et al. (2001, 2005)
Peziza ellipsospora	NSA	JT 13017	OSC	ascoma	AF335139	1	AY500482	ı	Hansen et al. (2001, 2005)
Peziza vesiculosa	Denmark	AFTOL-507, TL-6398	OSC 100126	ascoma	DQ470948	DQ471066	DQ470898	DQ471140	Schoch et al. (2009)
Phylloscypha phyllogena	NSA	KH.99.03	O	ascoma	AF335155	1	AY500480	ı	Hansen et al. (2001, 2005)
Plicaria carbonaria	NSA	DHP-9215	Ŧ	ascoma	AY500553	1	AY500479	ı	Hansen et al. (2005)
Plicaria leiocarpa (= endocarpoides)	Germany	AFTOL-1345	CBS 144.92	ascoma	DQ842029	DQ842028	DQ842038	DQ842037	Schoch et al. (2009)
Plicaria trachycarpa	Denmark	KH.97.93	O	ascoma	AY500554	ı	AY500478	ı	Hansen et al. (2005)
Purpureodiscus bananincola (as Peziza)	New Guinea	V. Demoulin 5529	H	ascoma	AF335133	1	AY500483	ı	Hansen et al. (2001, 2005)
Purpureodiscus subisabellina (as Peziza)	Norway	RK-96-54	herb. Roy Kristiansen	ascoma	AF335163	1	AY500484	ı	Hansen et al. (2001, 2005)
	Germany	Winterhoff 8844	herb. Winterhoff.	ascoma	AF335164	1	AY500485	ı	Hansen et al. (2001, 2005)
Pyronema domesticum	Netherlands	CBS 666.88		ascoma	DQ247805	DQ471093	DQ247795	DQ471166	Schoch et al. (2009)
Ruhlandiella berolinensis	Canary Islands	MM1230	O	ascoma	AF335175	1	AY500477	ı	Hansen et al. (2001, 2005)
Sarcopeziza sicula	Italy	ALV3181	MCVE 25877	ascoma	MH704523	MH709117	MH709116	ı	Agnello et al. (2018)
Sarcoscypha coccinea	USA:OR	AFTOL-50	OSC 100003	ascoma	AY544647	1	DQ497612	ı	Schoch et al. (2009)
	unknown	AFTOL-930, CBS 372.62	OSC 100370	ascoma	FJ176859	1	FJ713615	ı	Schoch et al. (2009)
Sarcosphaera coronaria	China	HK026	HKAS-87731	ascoma	MG871329	MG980695	MG980720	ı	Ekanayaka et al. (2018)
	Denmark	KS.94.24A	O	ascoma	AY500555	1	AY863000	ı	Hansen et al. (2001, 2005)
Scutellinia hyperborea	Norway	KH.03.116	Ŧ	ascoma	KC012702	KC109284	JX943801	JX943697	Hansen et al. (2013)
Tirmania pinoyi	Saudi Arabia	JT13587	OSC	ascoma	AF335178	1	AY500502	ı	Hansen et al. (2001, 2005)