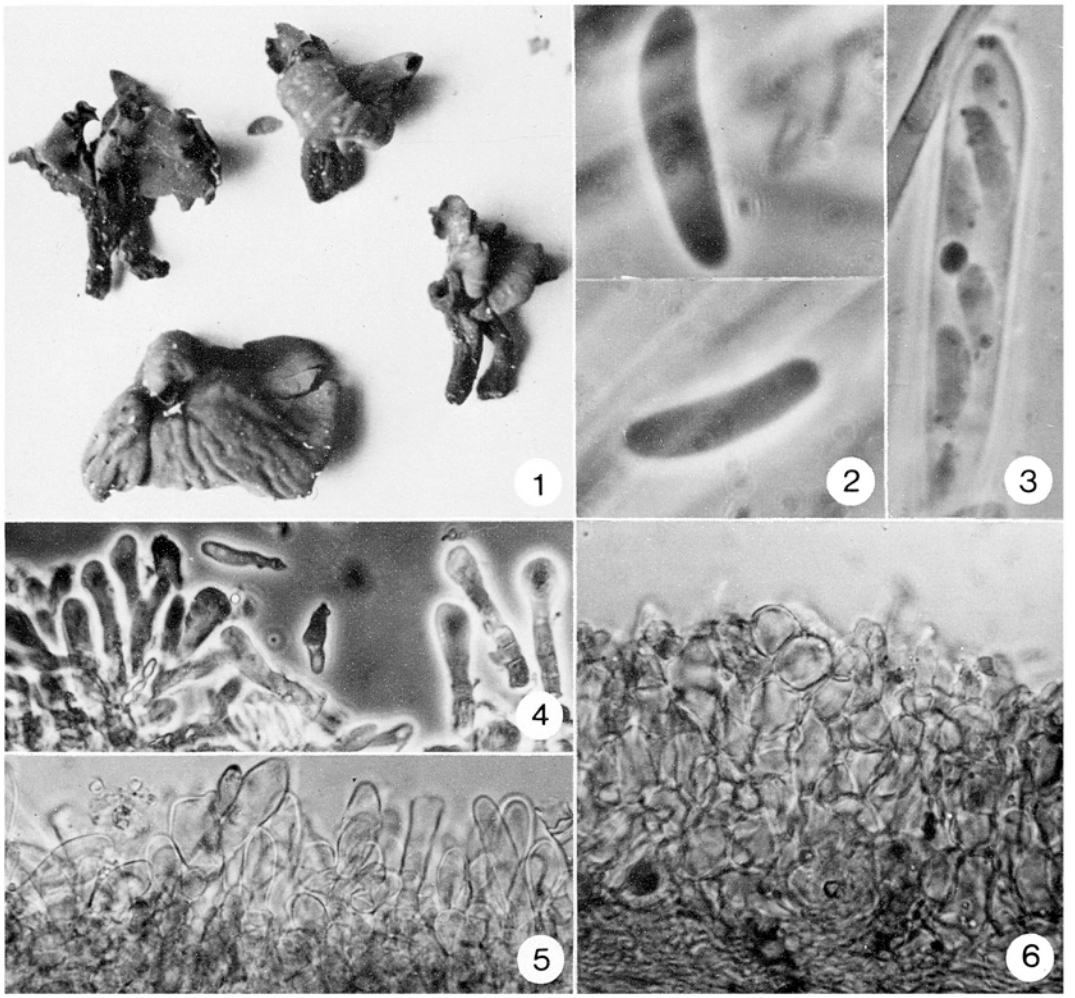
CHLOROSPLENIUM VERSIFORME



1, Stipitate, confluent apothecia (ca × 1.7); 2, ascospores (ca × 2400); 3, ascus tip with cylinder staining blue in Melzer's (ca × 1000); 4, clavate cells of ectal excipulum (ca × 600); 5, clavate to cylindrical cells of ectal excipulum (ca × 600); 6, globose cells of ectal excipulum (ca × 600). All from DAOM 147423, except No. 4 from 145202.

Chlorosplenium versiforme (Pers.) De Not., Comm. Critt. Ital. 1(5): 376. 1863.
≡*Peziza versiformis* Pers., Myc. Eur. 1: 243. 1822.
≡*Helotium versiforme* (Pers.) Berkeley, Outl. Brit. Fung., p. 372. 1860.
≡*Coryne versiformis* (Pers.) Rehm in Rabh., Krypt.-Fl. 1(3): 492. 1891.
≡*Midotis versiformis* (Pers.) Seaver, N. Amer. Cup Fungi (Inoperculates), p. 94. 1951.
≡*Chlorociboria versiformis* (Pers.) Seaver in Ramamurthi et al., Mycologia 49: 860. 1957, for Seaver, Mycologia 28: 393. 1936, nom. nud.
= *Craterellus caespitosus* Peck, Bull. Buffalo Soc. Nat. Sci. 1: 61. July 1873.

ASCOCARPS olive-yellow, often asymmetrical, stipitate, to 2 cm in diameter, gregarious. Stipe blackish with a yellow-green pruinose exterior, generally laterally flattened, to 1.3 cm long and 5 mm wide. Hymenium olive-yellow, smooth to somewhat rugose. Exterior surface pale yellow-brown to blackish, somewhat rugose. MEDULLARY EXCIPULUM *textura intricata* to *textura porrecta* in structure, soft, in thick microscopic sections brownish but individual cells hyaline, the hyphae 1.6-4μ in

diameter with yellowish incrustations. ECTAL EXCIPULUM up to 100μ thick, variable in structure, from *textura globosa* with the cells up to 12μ in diameter, to a loose *textura porrecta* with cylindrical to clavate apical cells to 9μ in diameter, both types of tissue often found in the same apothecium, the subglobose cells on the protected underside of the disc and the filamentous hyphae on the upper part of the stipe and more exposed areas; however, some apothecia contain predominately subglobose cells throughout. ASCI eight-spored, slenderly clavate, 95-110 × 6-6.5μ, the thin, apical cylinder staining blue in Melzer's reagent. PARAPHYSES cylindrical or filiform, 2-4.3μ in diameter, septate and branched about 50μ below the apex, the tips broadly rounded to fusoid. ASCOSPORES hyaline, pale yellow in Melzer's, not bluing in cotton blue, thin-walled, smooth, cylindrical to allantoid or irregularly fusoid, often appearing 1-septate, (9-)10-14.5(-17) × 2.8-3.5μ.

SUBSTRATE: well-rotted (but not green-stained) wood of angiosperms.

DISTRIBUTION: Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario.

COLLECTIONS (selected): N.S., Acadia Forestry Station, 31.VII.1953, DAOM 45354 (K. Cronin, FPF 459). Quebec, Cté. L'Islet, Ste-Aubert, 20.VIII.1951, 27623 (H.A.C. Jackson); Parc de la Vérendrye, W of Le Domaine, 30.VII.1960, 71818, (L.K. Weresub); Gatineau Park, 29.IX.1974, 147423 (D. Malloch). Ont., Carleton Co., Malakoff (near Ottawa), 24.VII.1962, 89217 (J.W. Groves); Simcoe Co., N of Barrie, 15.X.1966, 136582 (D. Malloch); Nipissing Dist., L. Timagami, 17.VIII.1930, 64243 (H.S. Jackson).

NOTES: Bisby et al. (The Fungi of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, N.R.C., Ottawa, 1938) recorded this species from Manitoba but I have not seen the collection.

The olive-yellow, stipitate, often asymmetrical apothecia, growing on wood but not staining it greenish, distinguish this species from both *Chlorosplenium aeruginascens* (Nyl.) Karst. and *C. aeruginosa* (Gray) De Not. which stain the wood green and have aeruginous-green apothecia. The species most similar to *C. versiforme* is *Chlorociboria rugipes* (Peck) Ram. et al. Ramamurthi et al.(loc. cit.) give as the principal distinguishing features of *C. rugipes* the subglobose cells of the ectal excipulum, the dark-walled hyphae of the medullary excipulum and the somewhat shorter and slightly broader spores. However, I found too much variation in the dried collections at DAOM to distinguish two groups on the basis of these features. The structure of the ectal excipulum varied within a single apothecium, and apothecia with predominately subglobose cells in the ectal excipulum generally had long spores (typical of *Chlorosplenium versiforme*). However, Professor R.P. Korf (pers. comm. 1974) finds that the two are distinguishable in the field.

The use of *Chlorosplenium* De Not. follows Korf (Mycologia 51: 298. 1959), although by 1973 he (in Ainsworth et al., The Fungi, Vol. IV-A, p. 304) referred *C. versiforme* and *Chlorociboria rugipes* to *Chlorencoelia*. The taxonomic (=facultative) synonymy is taken from Ramamurthi et al.(loc. cit.). I have not seen the type of *Craterellus caespitosus*.

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