

**CORTINARIUS CONTRARIUS, A NEW SPECIES IDENTICAL
WITH C. SERTIPES KÜHN. SENSU SVRČEK**

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(With two Text-figures)

It is argued that the taxon described under the names *Cortinarius sertipes* by Svřeek and *C. flexipes* f. *sertipes* by Kühner is not conspecific with the true *C. sertipes* Kühn.; hence its description as a new species.

In the middle of November 1972 I collected at a roadside in the Wieringermeer (prov. Noord-Holland, Netherlands) a small *Cortinarius*, growing under *Populus* on calcareous clay, with a very striking characteristic: in young fruit-bodies the pale brown gills contrasted strongly with the lilac apices of the stems. I described this collection as follows:

Pileus 30-45 mm across, deep brown, with white, fibrillose, inflexed margin when young, later convex, obtusely umbonate, purple-brown, at margin with white velar remnants, fleshy, hygrophanous, non-striate, smooth but surface cracking into scales when very old. Gills slightly distant, subdecurrent when young, later adnate, broad, pale clay, then pale milky coffee, finally cinnamon brown, with concolorous edge. Stem 40-60 × 5-8 mm, brownish with white, fugacious zones and lilac apex when young, later pallid brown with silky sheen and hardly visible velar remnants. Smell indistinct. Guaiac- and KOH-reactions positive.

Spores 9-10 × 5,5-6 μm, pale brown, minutely warty. Cystidia lacking.

It is evident that this *Cortinarius* belongs to the group *Pulchelli* (Kühner & Romagnesi, 1953: 304-305; Moser, 1967: 331-332). The fact that the gills and the apex of the stem have different colours, however, makes the identification difficult. The species around *C. erythrinus* (see Kühner & Romagnesi, 1953: 305) show this phenomenon, but their colours of stem and cap differ from those in the present species. *Cortinarius subsertipes* Romagnesi has the same contrasting colours of the gills and the apex of the stem, but has larger spores (10-12,5 × 6,5-7 μm). The only description in the 'Flore' of Kühner & Romagnesi (1953: 305) fitting my species reasonably is that of *C. sertipes* Kühn. of which the gills are described as 'devenant brun-cannelle'. The name *C. sertipes*, however, had not yet been validly published then.

Kühner validated the name *C. sertipes* two years later (1955: 40), describing both the young gills and the apex of the stem as 'lilacin'. In *Cortinarius* the colour of the young gills is generally considered of such importance that *C. sertipes* Kühn. 1955 probably is not identical with the invalid *C. sertipes* of 1953, nor with the species from the Wieringermeer either.

In 1961 (: 60) Kühner described another fungus that distinguishes itself from *C. sertipes* Kühn. 1955 in having brown young gills, a lilac apex of the stem and that, just like my fungus, occurs among grasses under *Populus* outside woods. He named it *Cortinarius flexipes* forma *sertipes* and, surprisingly, declared this name synonymous to *Cortinarius sertipes* Kühn. 1955, ignoring the difference in the colouration of young gills.

There are several interpretations of *Cortinarius flexipes* (Pers. ex Fr.) Fr. In the present case, however, it is only important to know that Persoon (1802: 275) originally described *Agaricus flexipes* as a fungus with a cinnamon cap, concolorous gills and a subconcolorous stem, growing in coniferous forest in the Harz¹ (no purple, violaceous or lilaceous tinges mentioned) and that Fries (1821: 212) described under the name *A. flexipes* Pers. another fungus with a strong smell ('olidus') and gills changing from purple to cinnamon, growing in moist coniferous forest in Sweden. In view of the characters mentioned it is very unlikely that the fungus described here is identical with *A. flexipes* Pers. or *A. flexipes* sensu Fries.

Svrček (1968: 274) described a species of *Cortinarius* with in young stages pale brown gills and a lilac apex of the stem, collected in a habitat similar to that described by Kühner in 1961 for his *C. flexipes* f. *sertipes*. Svrček called this species (incorrectly I believe because of the colour of the young lamellae) *Cortinarius sertipes* Kühn. 1955, considering the name *C. flexipes* f. *sertipes* (Kühn.) Kühn. a synonym. He placed this species in his paper next to *C. flexipes* sensu Kühn. with pale violet young gills and growing in coniferous woods.

In my opinion the fungi described by Svrček as *C. sertipes*, by Kühner in 1961 as *C. flexipes* f. *sertipes*, and by me in the present paper are identical. The concerning taxon does not have a validly published name and seems to deserve specific rank. Therefore it is here formally described under the name:

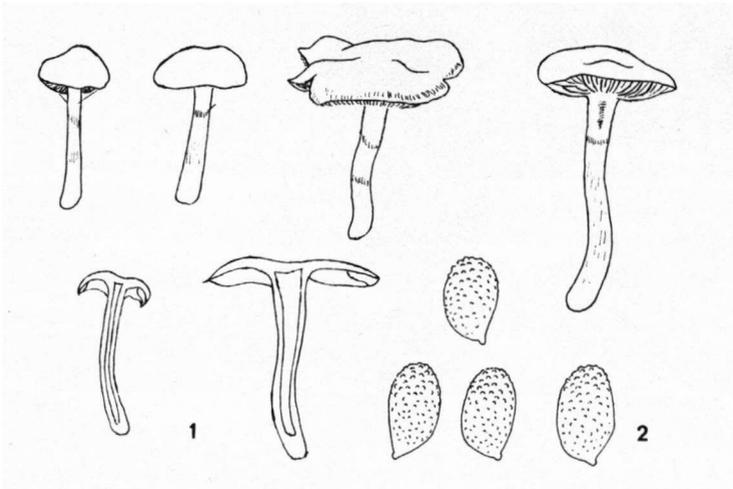
***Cortinarius contrarius* J. Geesink, spec. nov.**—Figs. 1, 2

MISAPPLIED NAMES.—*Cortinarius sertipes* Kühn. sensu Svrček in *Česká Mykol.* 22: 274. 1968. — *Cortinarius flexipes* forma *sertipes* (Kühn.) Kühn. sensu Kühn. in *Bull. mens. Soc. linn. Lyon* 30: 60. 1961.

Pileus 30–45 mm, primo margine incurvo, fuscus, margine albo fibrose, tum convexus, obtuse umbonatus, levis, circa marginem fragmentis veli albi ornatus, carnosus, hygrophanus, purpureo-brunneus, postremo ruptus. Lamellae pallidae, tum albido-suffuscae, postremo cinnameo-brunneae, primo paulum decurrentes, mox adnatae, latae, subconfertae, acie concolore. Stipes 40–60 × 5–8 mm, primo brunneus, tenuibus zonis albis fugacibus circumdatus et apice lilacino, dein pallido-brunneus sericeo-nitidus, fragmentis veli vix conspicuis. Nullus odor. Sporae 9–10 × 5.5–6 mm, suffuscae, tenuiter verrucosae. Basidia 4-sporigera. Cystidia desunt.

HOLOTYPE: 'Netherlands, prov. Noord-Holland, Wieringermeer, 18 Nov. 1972, J. Geesink' (L).

¹ The type of *Agaricus flexipes* is lacking from Persoon's herbarium at L.



Figs. 1-2. *Cortinarius contrarius*. — 1. Fruit-bodies ($\times 1/2$). — 2. Spores ($\times 1250$).

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