



Distribution of *Pucciniastrum symphyti* (*Pucciniales*) in Ukraine

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Abstract. Epiphytic development of the rust fungus *Pucciniastrum symphyti* was recorded in May 2016 near Myropil town (Zhytomyr Region, Romaniv District, Ukraine) on *Symphytum cordatum*. In Ukraine *P. symphyti* was reported on *S. cordatum*, *S. officinale*, and only once on *S. microcalyx*. Most records are confined to the west of the country and the dates of collections generally vary from late spring to early summer. We found *P. symphyti* at the easternmost edge of the range of *S. cordatum*. Despite a wide distribution of *S. officinale* throughout the country, *P. symphyti* was not recorded in Ukraine on this species for more than 80 years. Hitherto, the fungus was reported for Europe, the Caucasus and Asia Minor. Due to systemic infection, *P. symphyti* can overwinter in rhizomes of comfrey and therefore does not need aecial host plants for its reproduction. However, the general range of *P. symphyti* does not follow the geographical pattern of the *Symphytum* species richness, since there are only few its records in the diversity centre of this genus, but mainly reflects the distribution of its aecial host, *Abies alba*. The article is illustrated by original micrographs.

Keywords: distribution, morphology, rust fungi, *Symphytum cordatum*

Introduction

Pucciniastrum symphyti (DC.) McKenzie & Padamsee in uredinal and telial stages parasitizes several species of the genus *Symphytum* L., and in aecial stage – of *Abies* Mill. Previously this fungus was known as *Melampsorella symphyti* (DC.) Bubák but recent phylogenetic analysis has shown that it should be recombined in the genus *Pucciniastrum* G.H. Otth (Padamsee, McKenzie, 2014). *Pucciniastrum symphyti* is one of not so numerous rust species of predominantly European distribution with a few records from the Caucasus and Asia Minor. The genus *Symphytum* comprises approximately 40 species of the family *Boraginaceae* originally distributed in Eurasia from the UK, France and Spain in the west to West Siberia, Iran and Israel in the east. The Pontic province is a centre of species diversity and probably a centre of origin of the genus (Hacıoğlu, Erik, 2011). In Ukraine ten species of comfrey are recorded (Mosyakin, Fedoronchuk, 1999), but only *S. officinale* L. is widespread throughout the country. In Ukraine *P. symphyti* was observed on *S. officinale*, *S. cordatum* Waldst. & Kit. ex Willd. and *S. microcalyx* Opiz. All previous records on *S. cordatum* were confined to the Carpathians.

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The aim of this publication is to report the first records of *P. symphyti* on *S. cordatum* from the lowland part of Ukraine and to provide some data on its occurrence in this country.

Materials and methods

Systemically infected plants of *S. cordatum* were collected 1.6 km to the north of Myropil town (Zhytomyr Region, Romaniv District, Ukraine) in a forested floodplain of the small river Fastivka, a right tributary of the river Sluch. The canopy is composed primarily of *Alnus glutinosa* Mill. and *Populus nigra* L. The shrub level mainly consists of *Swida sanguinea* (L.) Opiz and *Corylus avellana* L. The herbaceous level is dense, with total projective cover of 90–95%. *Symphytum cordatum* is the dominant species with projective cover 40–45%. This level also includes *Aegopodium podagraria* L. (10–15%), *Galium aparine* L. (10–15%), *Ficaria verna* Huds. (10–15%), *Anemone nemorosa* L. (8–10%), *Chaerophyllum aromaticum* L. (3–5%), *Lamium maculatum* L. (1–3%), *Myosoton aquaticum* (L.) Moench (1–3%), etc. The specimens were studied under a dissecting microscope, labelled and dried for further treatment. Urediniospores mounted in water or lactic acid were investigated by

light microscopy. Photomicrographs were taken under Primo Star microscope, Canon A300 digital camera and AxioVision 4.7 software, used as well for measurements of microstructures. For scanning electron microscopy, samples were covered with an ultrathin coating of gold by ion beam sputtering unit JFC-1100. Images were obtained by scanning electron microscope JEOL JSM-6060 LA.

Analysis of general distribution is based on the data from bibliographic sources and databases available through the Internet, including GBIF Portal (GBIF Secretariat, 2018), USDA Fungal Database (Farr, Rossman, 2018), etc.

The specimens are deposited in Mycological Herbarium of the M.G. Kholodny Institute of Botany, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (KW-M).

Results and discussion

Epiphytic development of *Pucciniastrum symphyti* was recorded in May 2016 along a small tributary of the Sluch river. Morphological features of uredinial stage of the collected specimen match their description in the most relevant monographs and handbooks of the rust fungi (Săvulescu, 1953; Wilson, Henderson, 1966; Majewski, 1977). A diagnosis (characteristics of spermogonial, aecial and telial stages are based on literature data), and original illustrations of the species, data on its distribution, morphology and phenology are provided below.

Pucciniastrum symphyti (DC.) McKenzie & Padamsee, in Padamsee & McKenzie, Phytotaxa 174(3): 228. 2014. — *Uredo symphyti* DC., Encycl. Méth. Bot. 8: 232. 1808. — *Melampsorella symphyti* Bubák, Ber. dt. bot. Ges. 21: 356. 1903. — *Melampsora symphyti* (DC.) Legg, Vasculum 81(1): 41. 1996. — *Thekopsora symphyti* (DC.) J. Müll., Czech Mycol. 62(1): 97. 2010.

Spermogonia on the lower, rarely on the upper side of needles, subcuticular, orange. Aecia on the lower side of needles in two rows; peridium whitish, short-cylindrical, often slightly flattened laterally, up to 0.7 mm long, delicate, opening at the apex, rapidly destroyed. Aeciospores globose, broadly ellipsoidal, ovoid, often slightly irregular, 25–40 × 20–30 µm; cell wall is thin, colorless, densely covered with small cylindrical warts 1.5–2.5 µm height. Uredinia on the lower side of the leaves, more or less densely cover the entire surface of the leaf (Fig. 1, a), rounded, up to 0.4 mm in diameter, initially vesicular, covered with epidermis and peridium, after their destruction, pulverulent, yellow-orange (Fig. 1, b, c); urediniospores globose, ovate, pyriform,

ellipsoidal or irregularly elongate, 22–36 × 18–26 µm; cell wall is about 1 µm thick, with spacing 2–3 µm covered with small spines (Fig. 1, d, e, f). Telia cover significant part of the lower surface of leaves, white or pink. Teliospores inside epidermal cells, mostly numerous and densely packed, 11–18 × 9–15 µm; cell wall colorless or slightly yellowish, slightly thickened, smooth.

Distribution in Ukraine (see also Fig. 2)

On *Symphytum cordatum* Waldst. & Kit. ex Willd.: Ivano-Frankivsk Region, Tlumach, 48°51' N, 24°59' E, 04.1914 (Wróblewski, 1916); Maniava, 48°39' N, 24°21' E, 17.05.1988, leg. Yu.Ya. Tykhonenko (KW-M 70945); Kniazhdvir, 48°34' N, 24°53' E, 05.1912 (Wróblewski, 1913, 1916); Molodiatsyn, 48°31' N, 24°50' E, 05.1914 (Wróblewski, 1916); Pistyn, 48°20' N, 25°03' E, 16.05.1988, leg. Yu.Ya. Tykhonenko (KW-M 70946); Lanchyn, 48°32' N, 24°45' E, 05.1914 (Wróblewski, 1916); Chornohora, Pozhyzhevskaya mountain, 48°08' N, 24°31' E, 06–08.1910 (Chmielewski, 1910). Lviv Region, Pidhirtsi, 49°15' N, 23°55' E, 22.05.1917 (Petrak, 1925). Ternopil Region, Buchach, 49°03' N, 25°22' E (Namysłowski, 1911). Zakarpatska Region, Shyrokyi Luh, 48°12' N, 23°45' E, 16.06.1954, leg. M.F. Smitska (KW-M 22642). Zhytomyr Region, Myropil, 50° 08' 33" N, 27° 41' 23" E, 03.05.2016, leg. O.O. Orlov (KW-M 70947). On *S. microcalyx* Opiz: Ternopil Region, Zalishchyky, 48°39' N, 25°44' E (Rouppert, 1911). On *S. officinale* L.: Chernihiv Region, Irzhavets, 50°52' N, 32°33' E, 05.08.1916 (Bondartseva-Monteverde, 1921); Pryluky, 50°35' N, 32°23' E (Transhel, 1939). Ivano-Frankivsk Region, Chernelytsia, 48°48' N, 25°25' E, 16.07.1913 (Wróblewski, 1914). Kharkiv Region, Kharkiv, 50°00' N, 36°13' E, (Transhel, 1939). Khmelnytskyi Region, Kamianets-Podilskyi, 48°40' N, 26°34' E, 15.05.1927, leg. Panasiuk. Kyiv Region, Bila Tserkva, 49°47' N, 30°07' E (Transhel, 1939), 22.05.1928 (Hrodzinska, 1929). Lviv Region, Obroshyne, 49°47' N, 23°52' E, 07.07.1917 (Wróblewski, 1922). Ternopil Region, Zalishchyky, 48°39' N, 25°44' E (Rouppert, 1911).

General distribution. Europe: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom; Asia: Armenia, Georgia, Turkey.

Due to systemic infection, *P. symphyti* can overwinter in rhizomes of comfrey and therefore does

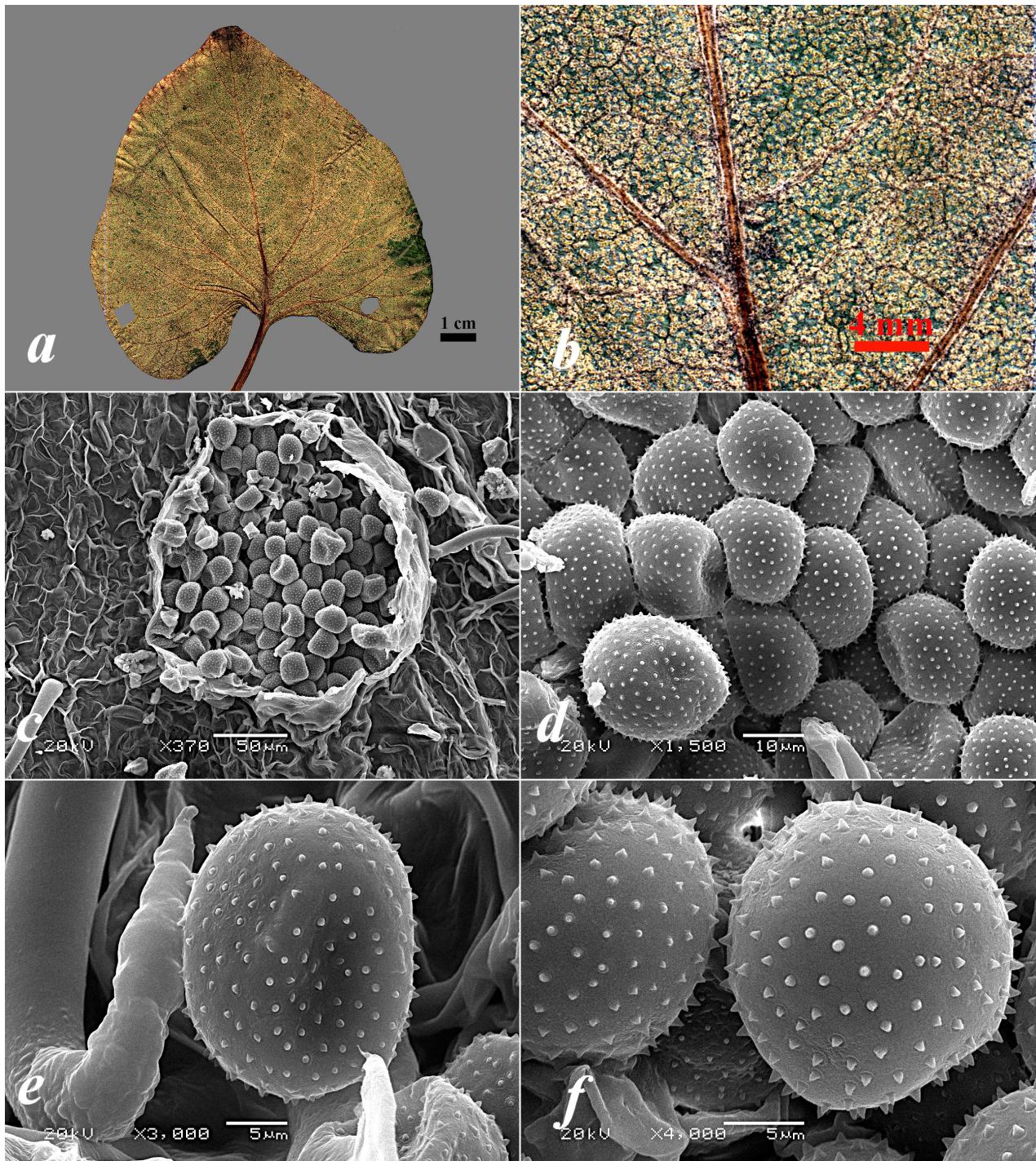


Fig. 1. *Pucciniastrum symphyti*: a – habit of uredinia on *Symphytum cordatum* (scale bar = 1 cm); b – fragment of comfrey leaf showing erumpent uredinia (scale bar = 4 mm); c – scanning electron microscopy of uredinium (scale bar = 50 μ m); d – scanning electron microscopy of urediniospores inside uredinium (scale bar = 10 μ m); e, f – scanning electron microscopy of scattered urediniospores (scale bars = 5 μ m)

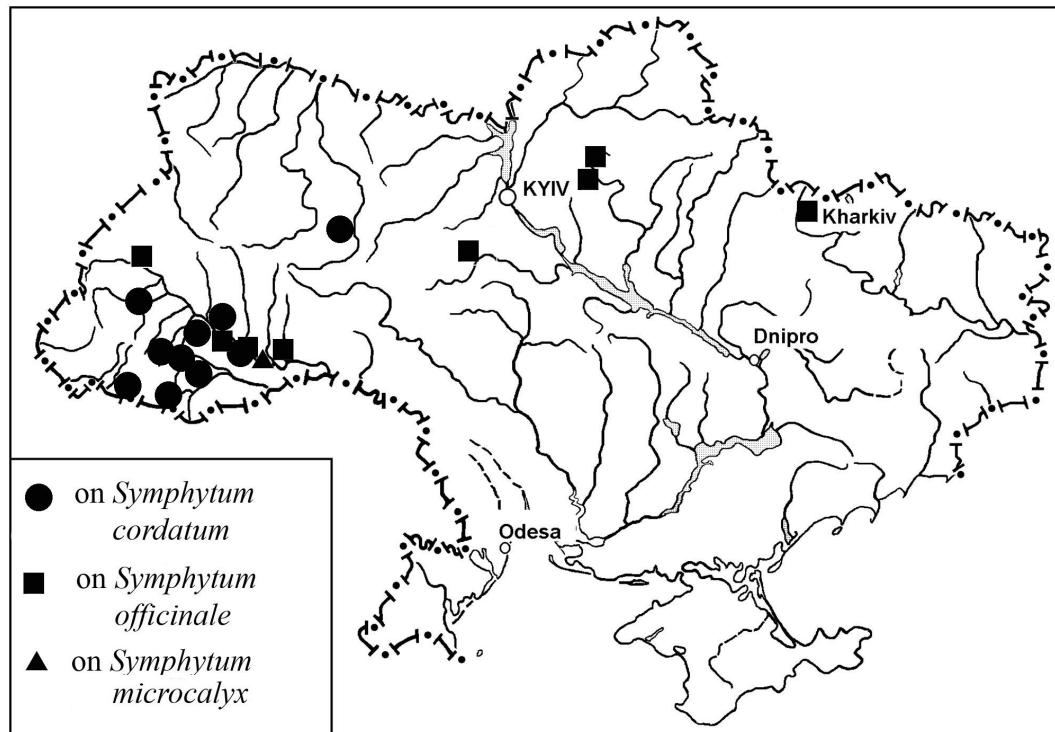


Fig. 2. Distribution of *Pucciniastrum symphyti* in Ukraine

not need aecial host plants for its reproduction (Wilson, Henderson, 1966). However, the general range of *P. symphyti* does not follow geographical pattern of the *Sympytum* species richness since there are only few its records in the diversity centre of this genus, but mainly reflects the distribution of its aecial host *Abies alba* Mill.

In Ukraine *P. symphyti* was observed on *S. cordatum*, *S. officinale* and only once on *S. microcalyx*. Most records are confined to the west of the country and the dates of collections generally vary from late spring to early summer. *Sympytum cordatum* is distributed mostly in the Carpathians and surrounding areas (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine). In Ukraine there are some isolated populations of this species at a considerable distance from the Carpathians (Khmelnytsky, Ternopil, Zhytomyr regions) (Kobiv, 2007). We found *P. symphyti* at the easternmost edge of the range of *S. cordatum*. Despite wide distribution of *S. officinale* throughout the country, *P. symphyti* was not recorded in Ukraine on this species for more than last 80 years.

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У травні 2016 р. біля смт Миропіль (Житомирська обл., Україна) на *Sympyllum cordatum* було відмічено епіфітний розвиток іржастого гриба *Pucciniastrum symphyti*. В Україні *P. symphyti* відмічався на *S. cordatum*, *S. officinale* і одноразово на *S. microcalyx*. Більшість зразків було зібрано на заході країни і дати збору в основному відносяться до періоду від пізньої весни до раннього літа. Наша знахідка *P. symphyti* розташована на східній межі ареалу *S. cordatum*. Незважаючи на широке розповсюдження *S. officinale* по всій країні, *P. symphyti* на цьому виді в Україні не реєструвався протягом понад 80 останніх років. Цей вид гриба пошириений в Європі, на Кавказі та в Малій Азії. Завдяки системному характеру ураження *P. symphyti* здатний перезимовувати в кореневищах живокосту, і тому не потребує еціального господаря для свого відновлення. Проте характер загального поширення *P. symphyti* не пов'язаний із регіонами найвищого видового різноманіття роду *Sympyllum* (у центрі різноманітності відмічено лише кілька знахідок), а в основному відображує поширення його еціального живителя *Abies alba*. Стаття ілюстрована оригінальними мікрофотографіями.

Ключові слова: поширення, морфологія, іржасти гриби, *Sympyllum cordatum*

Тихоненко Ю.Я.¹, Орлов А.А.² **Распространение *Pucciniastrum symphyti* (*Pucciniales*) в Украине.**
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В мае 2016 г. вблизи пгт Мирополь (Житомирская обл., Украина) на *Sympyllum cordatum* было отмечено эпифитотийное развитие ржавчинного гриба *Pucciniastrum symphyti*. В Украине *P. symphyti* отмечался на *S. cordatum*, *S. officinale* и однажды на *S. microcalyx*. Большинство образцов было собрано на западе страны и даты сбора в основном относятся к периоду от поздней весны до раннего лета. Наша находка *P. symphyti* находится на восточной границе ареала *S. cordatum*. Несмотря на широкое распространение *S. officinale* по всей стране, *P. symphyti* на этом виде в Украине не регистрировался на протяжении более чем 80 последних лет. Этот вид гриба распространен в Европе, на Кавказе и в Малой Азии. Благодаря системному характеру поражения вид *P. symphyti* способен перезимовывать в корневищах окопника, и поэтому не нуждается в эциональном хозяине для своего возобновления. Однако, характер общего распространения *P. symphyti* не связан с регионами наивысшего видового разнообразия рода *Sympyllum* (в центре разнообразия отмечено лишь несколько находок), а в основном отражает распространение его эциального питающего растения *Abies alba*. Статья иллюстрирована оригинальными микрофотографиями.

Ключевые слова: распространение, морфология, ржавчинные грибы, *Sympyllum cordatum*