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Research Article  
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## *Plectania ericae*, a New Record for Turkey from *Sarcosomataceae*

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**Abstract:** *Plectania ericae* (Donadini) Roqué, was recorded for the first time from Turkey. Short description of the species is provided together with its photographs related to its macro and micromorphology.

**Key words:** Macrofungi, new record, *Plectania*, Turkey

### *Plectania ericae*, *Sarcosomataceae*'den Türkiye İçin Yeni Bir Kayıt

**Öz:** *Plectania ericae* (Donadini) Roqué, Türkiye'den ilk kez kaydedilmiştir. Türe ait kısa betim, türün makro ve mikromorfolojisine ilişkin fotoğrafları ile birlikte verilmiştir.

**Anahtar kelimeler:** Makromantarlar, yeni kayıt, *Plectania*, Türkiye

#### Introduction

*Plectania* Fuckel is a genus of fungi within the family *Sarcosomataceae* (Pezizales). The genus was circumscribed by Fuckel (1870) and has a widespread distribution with 17 conformed species (Kirk et al., 2008; www.indexfungorum.org; accessed 25 June 2018).

Five members of *Sarcosomataceae*, *Plectania melastoma* (Sowerby) Fuckel, *Pl. rhytidia* (Berk.) Nannf. & Korf, *Pseudoplectania sphagnophila* (Pers.) Kreisel, *Ps. vogesiaca* Seaver and *Strobiloscypha cupressina* B. Perić & Pfister have so far been reported from Turkey (Allı et al., 2011; Akata et al., 2012; Türkoğlu and Yağız, 2012; Kaya and Uzun, 2018).

During a field trip at Tuzla district (İstanbul), some black and cupulate ascomas were collected under *Erica* sp., Later on they were identified as *Plectania ericae* (Donadini) Roqué. Tracing the current checklists (Sesli and Denchev, 2014; Solak et al., 2015) and the latest contributions (Demirel et al., 2017; Işık and Türkekel, 2017, 2018; Kaşık et al., 2017; Keleş and Oruç, 2017; Öztürk et al., 2017; Sesli and Topcu Sesli, 2017; Türkekel and Işık, 2017; Uzun et al., 2017; Çolak and Kaygusuz, 2018; Sadullahoğlu and Demirel, 2018; Uzun and Acar, 2018; Uzun et al., 2018) it was found that, the taxon has not been reported from Turkey before.

The study aims to make a contribution to Turkish mycobiota.

#### Materials and Methods

Fungal specimens were collected from Tuzla district of İstanbul province in 2018. The fruit bodies were photographed at their natural habitats and required morphological and ecological characteristics were recorded. Then the collected specimens were transferred to the fungarium within paper bags. The microscopic studies were based on dried specimens. Microscopic investigations were carried out under Nikon Eclipse Ci trinocular light microscope. The specimens were mounted in water and Melzer's reagent. The samples were identified by comparing the obtained data with Donadini (1987), Boccardo et al. (2014) and Carbone et al. (2014). The samples are kept at Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey University, Kamil Özdağ Science Faculty, Department of Biology.

#### Results

The systematics of the species is given in accordance with Kirk et al. (2008) and the Index Fungorum (www.indexfungorum.org; accessed 15 May 2018). The taxon is presented with a brief description, habitat and locality.



**Ascomycota** Caval.-Sm.

**Pezizales** J. Schröt.

**Sarcosomataceae** Kobayasi

**Plectania** Fuckel

**Plectania ericae** (Donadini) Roqué (Figure 1)

**Syn:** [*Pseudoplectania ericae* Donadini]

**Macroscopic and microscopic features:**

Ascomata 4-11 mm in diameter, cupulate to spreading in age, sessile to short stalked, hymenial surface smooth, black, margin smooth, thinner, outer surface concolorous, finely tomentose to pubescent, hairs cylindrical and dark brownish black to dark brown. Flesh blackish. Excipular cells are globose to prismatic and thick walled. Asci 250-300 x 12-14  $\mu$ m, cylindrical, operculate and eight spored. Paraphyses, filiform, sometimes anastomosing, 2 or 3 times bifurcated, some trifurcated, slightly enlarged at the apex and generally exceeding asci. Ascospores 11.5-12 (-13)  $\mu$ m, spherical, smooth, with a large guttule at maturity.

**Ecology:** *Plectania ericae* was reported to grow on roots of *Erica arborea* L. (Boccardo et al., 2014), on bare soil in the presence of lichens where *Cistus monspeliensis* L., *C. salviifolius* L. and *Erica arborea* L. exist (Donadini, 1987).

**Specimen examined:** İstanbul, Tuzla, around İstanbul Park, on soil with *Erica* sp. roots, 40°57'N-29°25'E, 175 m, 07.03.2018, Yuzun 6297.

**Discussions**

*Plectania ericae* was reported for the first time from Turkey and the existing taxa number of *Plectania* and *Sarcosomataceae* increased to three and six respectively. General morphology of the identified sample is in agreement with the descriptions of Donadini (1987) and Boccardo et al. (2014).

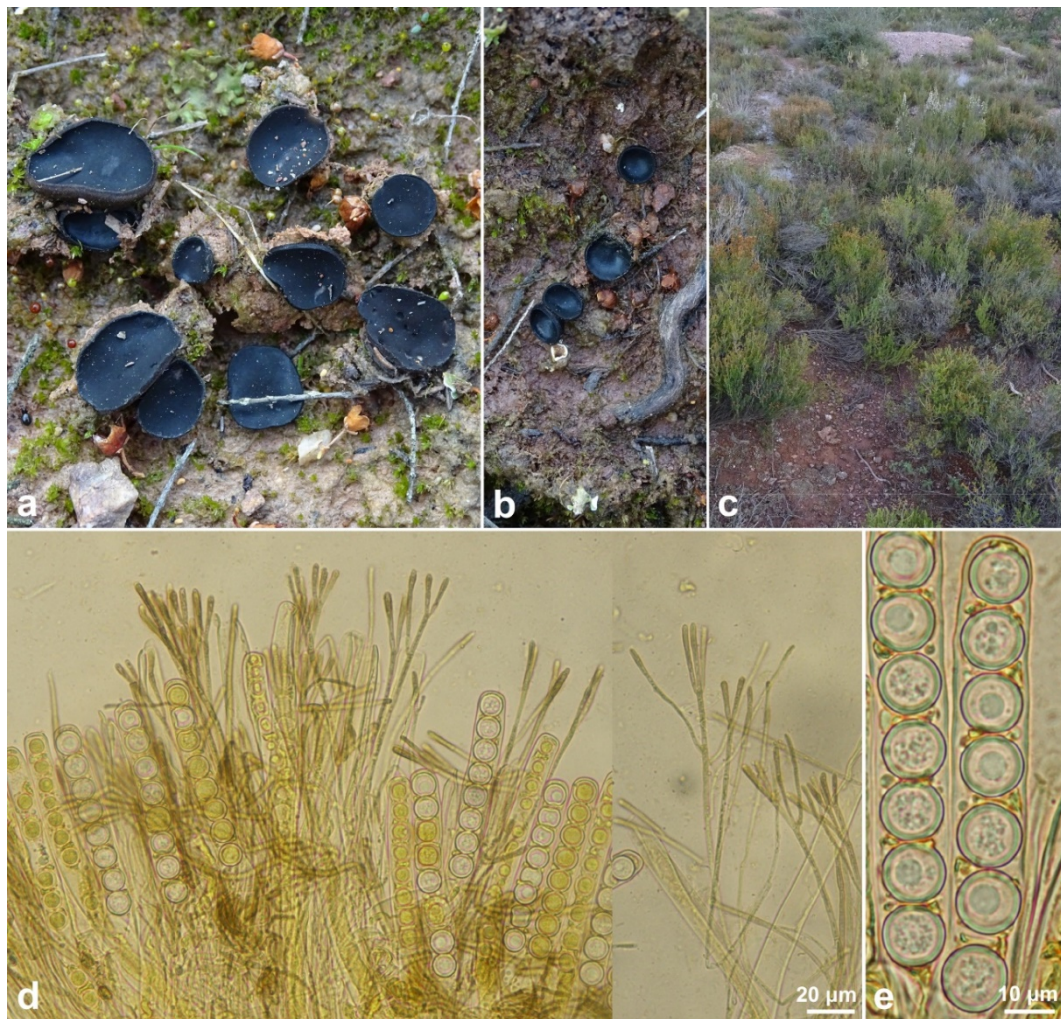


Figure 1. *Plectania ericae*: a,b- ascocarps, c- habitat, d- asci and paraphyses (Melzer), e- ascospores (Melzer)





*Plectania ericae* is similar to *Pseudoplectania affinis* M. Carbone, Agnello & P. Alvarado, *Ps. nigrella* (Pers.) Fuckel and *Ps. tasmanica* M. Carbone, Agnello & P. Alvarado. The larger apothecia, more diverticulate paraphyses tips and straighter external hairs differs *Ps. affinis* from *Pl. ericae*. *Ps. nigrella* can easily be differentiated from *Pl. ericae* by the forked paraphyses and non coniferous habitat of the *Pl. ericae*. *Ps. tasmanica* differs from *Pl. ericae* mainly by its larger size, and the straighter and numerous external hairs (Carbone et al., 2014). *P. ericae* also have some similarities with *Pl.*

*melaena* in terms of micromorphology, but the black content of the paraphyses and the coniferous habitat of *Pl. melaena* differs it from *Pl. ericae* (Medardi, 2006; Iturriaga et al., 2012; Van Vooren et al., 2013).

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