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Diversity and ecology of poroid fungi (*Agaricomycetes*, *Basidiomycota*) of the Gunib Plateau, Dagestan

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Abstract

Aim. Polypores are an integral part of forest ecosystems, but to date there is no sufficient information on diversity and ecology of this group of basidiomycetes in many mountain areas. The aim of this study is to reveal species composition and characterize substrate preferences of poroid fungi of the Gunib Plateau (the Republic of Dagestan, Northeast Caucasus, Russia).

Material and Methods. All fungal specimens were collected by the authors during field surveys in 2018–2020, which were carried out within pine, birch, hornbeam, alder, aspen, and mixed forests as well as juniper woodlands. The identification of fungi was performed predominantly by a light microscopy techniques, but also by an analysis of the ITS1-5.8S-ITS2 nrDNA to verify specimens from *Postia caesia*-species complex.

Results. A total of 73 species of poroid fungi from 43 genera and 7 orders of the class *Agaricomycetes* (*Basidiomycota*) have been identified in the territory of the Gunib Plateau within the Upper Gunib Nature Park. Among them, there are 29 new species for the Republic of Dagestan, of which 11 species are cited for the Caucasus for the first time. An annotated species list with detailed information on substrata, habitats, localities, and links to herbarium specimens (LE) is provided.

Conclusion. The revealed species richness of polypores has expanded the current knowledge on the mycobiota of the Gunib Plateau and its links with plant communities. The range of leading genera (*Antrodia* s. l., *Ceriporia*, *Gloeophyllum*, *Phellinus* s. l., *Postia*, *Trametes* s. l.) is characteristic of the boreal zone and determined by the predominance of *Pinus kochiana* forests in the surveyed area.

Key Words

Auriporia aurulenta, biodiversity, mountain habitats, Northeast Caucasus, polypores, wood-inhabiting fungi.

Разнообразие и экология пороидных грибов (*Agaricomycetes*, *Basidiomycota*) на территории плато Гуниб, Дагестан

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Резюме

Цель. Трутовые грибы являются неотъемлемой частью лесных экосистем, но на сегодняшний день для многих горных территорий отсутствует информация о разнообразии и экологии этой группы базидиомицетов. Цель исследования – инвентаризация видового разнообразия и выявление субстратных предпочтений пороидных грибов на территории плато Гуниб (Дагестан, Северо-Восточный Кавказ).

Материал и методы. Образцы грибов были собраны авторами в ходе полевых исследований в 2018-2020 гг., которые проводились маршрутным методом в сосновых, березовых, грабовых, ольховых, осиновых и смешанных лесах, а также можжевельниковых криволесьях. Идентификация грибов проводилась преимущественно методами световой микроскопии, а также на основе анализа ITS1-5.8S-ITS2 области яДНК для проверки образцов из *Postia caesia*-комплекса.

Результаты. Всего на территории плато Гуниб в природном парке «Верхний Гуниб» идентифицировано 73 вида пороидных грибов из 43 родов и 7 порядков класса *Agaricomycetes* (*Basidiomycota*). Среди них 29 новых видов для Республики Дагестан, из которых 11 видов впервые указаны для Кавказа. Приведен аннотированный список видов с подробной информацией о субстратах, местообитаниях, местонахождениях и номерах гербарных образцов (LE).

Заключение. Выявленное видовое разнообразие пороидных грибов расширило современные знания о микробиоте плато Гуниб и ее связях с растительными сообществами. Спектр ведущих родов (*Antrodia* s. l., *Ceriporia*, *Gloeophyllum*, *Phellinus* s. l., *Postia*, *Trametes* s. l.) характерен для бореальной зоны и определяется преобладанием на обследованной территории сосновых лесов из *Pinus kochiana*.

Ключевые слова

Auriporia aurulenta, биоразнообразие, горные экосистемы, Северо-Восточный Кавказ, трутовики, деревообитающие грибы.

INTRODUCTION

Poroid fungi (*Agaricomycetes*, *Basidiomycota*) are an important non-taxonomic group of wood-inhabiting macrobasidiomycetes; their common morphological character is the poroid hymenophore. They play a significant role in biomass recycling in forest ecosystems [1], while forming ecological niches for other organisms. Many species of poroid fungi are causative agents of stem and root rot. Among species of poroid fungi are pathogens of living trees [2; 3], as well as mycorrhizal species, which form basidiomata on dead wood (e.g. among *Sistotrema*; [4; 5]). Several species are bioindicators of forest areas with a high conservation value, and a considerable number of species possess bioactive compounds with diverse biotechnological and pharmaceutical applications [1; 6].

The article summarizes the data on the species diversity and ecological characteristics of poroid fungi obtained by the authors [7-10] and supplemented with information about new finds on the territory of the Gunib Plateau (Dagestan).

The Gunib Plateau occupies the northwestern part of Intramountain Dagestan, located in the northeast of the Greater Caucasus. Plateau height ranges from 1400 to 2351 m above sea level and the total area is about 14.7 km² [11].

The plateau is particularly affected by a continental climate [11]. The annual rainfall is 680 mm with a June-July maximum. The average annual air temperature is +6.7°C. The coldest month is January with an average monthly

temperature of -5.2°C while the average temperature of the warmest month of August is +16.5°C. The period of temperatures above zero lasts on average for 270 days [10]. Relative humidity is 65%.

The plateau is drained by the shallow river Gunibka, which receives mainly rain water [11].

In the flora of vascular plants of the Gunib plateau, there are 657 species. The general vegetation cover of the plateau consists of forest, meadow, mountain-steppe, and mountain-xerophytic communities with significant participation of petrophytes [12]. The forests of the Gunib Plateau are formed by *Pinus kochiana*, *Betula litwinowii*, *B. pendula* and *B. raddeana*, with an admixture of *Salix caprea*, *Populus tremula*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Acer campestre*, *Sorbus torminalis*, *Tilia cordata* and other trees [10].

The aim of the study was to reveal species composition and characterize substrate preferences of poroid fungi (*Agaricomycetes*, *Basidiomycota*) of the Gunib Plateau (the Republic of Dagestan, Northeast Caucasus).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Specimens of wood-inhabiting fungi were collected in accordance with the standard techniques [13; 14] in September-October of 2018–2020 and May of 2019 on the territory of the Gunib Plateau during a route survey of forest ecosystems. The list of studied localities with geographical coordinates and altitudes is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Geographical coordinates and altitudes of studied localities in the Gunib Plateau

Таблица 1. Географические координаты и высоты над уровнем моря обследованных локалитетов на плато Гуниб

| Locality number | Latitude | Longitude | Altitude |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| #1 | 42.40075° N | 46.91889° E | 1720 m |
| #2 | 42.403707° N | 46.911382° E | 1798 m |
| #3 | 42.403593° N | 46.911264° E | 1810 m |
| #4 | 42.409523° N | 46.908526° E | 1854 m |
| #5 | 42.409617° N | 46.906868° E | 1881 m |
| #6 | 42.409278° N | 46.904450° E | 1924 m |
| #7 | 42.409078° N | 46.901189° E | 1959 m |
| #8 | 42.407591° N | 46.903117° E | 1920 m |
| #9 | 42.404557° N | 46.906402° E | 1874 m |
| #10 | 42.403639° N | 46.921271° E | 1704 m |
| #11 | 42.404152° N | 46.921312° E | 1692 m |
| #12 | 42.404383° N | 46.914534° E | 1716 m |
| #13 | 42.403555° N | 46.912575° E | 1815 m |
| #14 | 42.410924° N | 46.908791° E | 1808 m |
| #15 | 42.409787° N | 46.907016° E | 1876 m |
| #16 | 42.410041° N | 46.905304° E | 1925 m |
| #17 | 42.412403° N | 46.910023° E | 1716 m |
| #18 | 42.411631° N | 46.914462° E | 1701 m |
| #19 | 42.405913° N | 46.920473° E | 1603 m |
| #20 | 42.396452° N | 46.925452° E | 1630 m |
| #21 | 42.394918° N | 46.925022° E | 1685 m |
| #22 | 42.394227° N | 46.924735° E | 1724 m |
| #23 | 42.395467° N | 46.922518° E | 1717 m |
| #24 | 42.397379° N | 46.922712° E | 1679 m |
| #25 | 42.396977° N | 46.922749° E | 1663 m |
| #26 | 42.395996° N | 46.921136° E | 1718 m |
| #27 | 42.395962° N | 46.919903° E | 1759 m |
| #28 | 42.393162° N | 46.929143° E | 1701 m |
| #29 | 42.392732° N | 46.931507° E | 1685 m |
| #30 | 42.392758° N | 46.935123° E | 1573 m |
| #31 | 42.391788° N | 46.936204° E | 1617 m |
| #32 | 42.390799° N | 46.936711° E | 1632 m |
| #33 | 42.39073° N | 46.938541° E | 1567 m |
| #34 | 42.404084° N | 46.911848° E | 1812 m |
| #35 | 42.40274° N | 46.921363° E | 1654 m |
| #36 | 42.405848° N | 46.904889° E | 1895 m |

Identification of the collected material was performed using a LOMO Mikmed-6 microscope (magnifications 600× and 1500× with oil immersion lens), a standard set of chemicals (5% KOH, Melzer reagent, 0.1% cotton blue), and modern monographs on polypores [15; 16]. The specimens studied were deposited into the Mycological Herbarium of the Komarov Botanical Institute of RAS (LE), Saint Petersburg.

The analysis of the ITS1-5.8S-ITS2 nrDNA was applied to verify specimens from *Postia caesia*-species complex [17]. DNA was amplified directly from dried specimens with a Phire Plant Direct PCR Master Mix Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Lithuania). Amplification of the ITS region was done using a primer pair ITS1F/ITS4B [18;

19]. PCR products were purified with a Fermentas Genomic DNA Purification Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Lithuania) and sequenced on an ABI Prism 3500 Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems). Raw data were edited and assembled in MEGA 6 [20]. A BLAST analysis was carried out at the NCBI website [21].

Newly generated sequences (OK356489, OK356490) were deposited in GenBank. Additionally, 29 ITS sequences were retrieved from GenBank [22] (Table 2). Sequences were aligned with a MAFFT version 7 web tool [23; 24] using the E-INS-1 option. Maximum Likelihood (ML) analysis was performed in a IQ-TREE Web Server [25] with 1000 ultrafast bootstrap replicates.

Table 2. Sequences used in this study

Таблица 2. Нуклеотидные последовательности, использованные в данном исследовании

| Species | GenBank accessions | Specimen voucher | Origin (country) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|---|------------------|
| <i>Antrodia pulvinascens</i> | JQ700286 | Pennanen 1532 (H) | Finland |
| <i>Postia alni</i> | MG137026 | Vampola 12.10.1995 (H 7019137), isotype | Slovakia |
| <i>Postia alni</i> | MG137028 | Larsson 18.09.2014 (O F-248173) | Norway |
| <i>Postia alni</i> | OK356489 | Volobuev 29.09.2019 (LE F-334625) | Russia |
| <i>Postia auricoma</i> | MG137040 | Niemelä 8310 (H 6014002), holotype | Finland |
| <i>Postia auricoma</i> | MG137042 | Spirin 4586 (H) | Russia |
| <i>Postia bubalina</i> | MW182172 | Cui 16976 | China |
| <i>Postia bubalina</i> | MW182173 | Cui 16985 | China |
| <i>Postia caesia</i> | MG137045 | Schuster 51 (LY BR-6776), neotype | Germany |
| <i>Postia caesia</i> | MG137047 | Miettinen 14133 (H) | United Kingdom |
| <i>Postia caesiosimulans</i> | MG137054 | Miettinen 16976,1 (H 7008645), epitype | USA |
| <i>Postia caesiosimulans</i> | MG137056 | Miettinen 17075 (H) | USA |
| <i>Postia cyanescens</i> | MG137067 | Miettinen 13602 (H 6014001), holotype | Finland |
| <i>Postia cyanescens</i> | MG137071 | Miettinen 15919,2 (H) | Spain |
| <i>Postia glauca</i> | MG137078 | Spirin 5317 (H 7008648), holotype | Russia |
| <i>Postia glauca</i> | MG137079 | Miettinen 10567 (H) | China |
| <i>Postia luteocaesia</i> | MG137091 | Rivoire 2605 (LY) | France |
| <i>Postia magna</i> | KC595944 | Miettinen 10634 (H 7008643), holotype | China |
| <i>Postia magna</i> | MW182180 | Cui 16983 | China |
| <i>Postia mediterraneocaesia</i> | KX900886 | LY BR 4274 | France |
| <i>Postia populi</i> | MG137092 | Miettinen 17043 (H 7008644), holotype | USA |
| <i>Postia populi</i> | MG137097 | Niemelä 8379 (H 6007874) | Finland |
| <i>Postia simulans</i> | MG137103 | Niemelä 8846 (H 6034704), epitype | Finland |
| <i>Postia simulans</i> | MG137110 | Miettinen 20422 (H) | Finland |
| <i>Postia simulans</i> | MG137112 | Spirin 4386 (H) | Russia |
| <i>Postia subviridis</i> | MG137120 | Spirin 8774a (H) | USA |
| <i>Postia tenuis</i> | KX900885 | Cui 10788 | China |
| <i>Postia tenuis</i> | KX900884 | Dai 12974 | China |
| <i>Postia yanae</i> | MG137121 | Kotiranta 27454 (H 7034942), holotype | Russia |
| <i>Postia yanae</i> | MG137122 | Kotiranta 27606 (H) | Russia |
| <i>Postia yanae</i> | OK356490 | Volobuev 06.10.2018 (LE F-334630) | Russia |

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As a result of the 3-year long field survey in forests of the Gunib Plateau, 73 species of poroid fungi from 43 genera and 7 orders (*Agaricomycetes*, *Basidiomycota*) have been registered. Among them, there are 29 new species for the Republic of Dagestan, of which 11 species are cited for the Caucasus for the first time. Species new to the Caucasus are *Antrodia minuta*, *Antrodiella ichnusana*, *Cartilosoma ramentaceum*, *Ceriporia torpida*, *Kneiffiella abdita*, *Postia alni*, *P. lateritia*, *P. leucomallella*, *P. yanae*, *Sistotrema alboluteum*, *S. muscicola*.

New locations of *Auriporia aurulenta* were noted, a rare species protected in the Republic of Dagestan [26], as well as a number of Eurasian rare taxa (*Ceriporia torpida*, *Kneiffiella abdita*, *Sistotrema alboluteum*).

The Gunib record of *Postia yanae* is extremely remarkable, since the species has previously been known only from Eastern Siberia [17]. The identification based on microscopic features is confirmed by 99% similarity of the ITS nrDNA sequences and a phylogenetic analysis (Fig. 1). Our find of the species has common ecological characters with the Siberian collections being a coniferous-dwelling fungus in mountain forest ecosystems.

Based on results of the ML analysis of ITS nrDNA, the following combination in the genus *Postia* is introduced:

Postia bubalina (B.K. Cui & Shun Liu) Ivanushenko & Volobuev comb. nova (MB841410).

Basionym: *Cyanosporus bubalinus* B.K. Cui & Shun Liu, *Frontiers in Microbiology* 12 (no. 631166): 5 (2021)

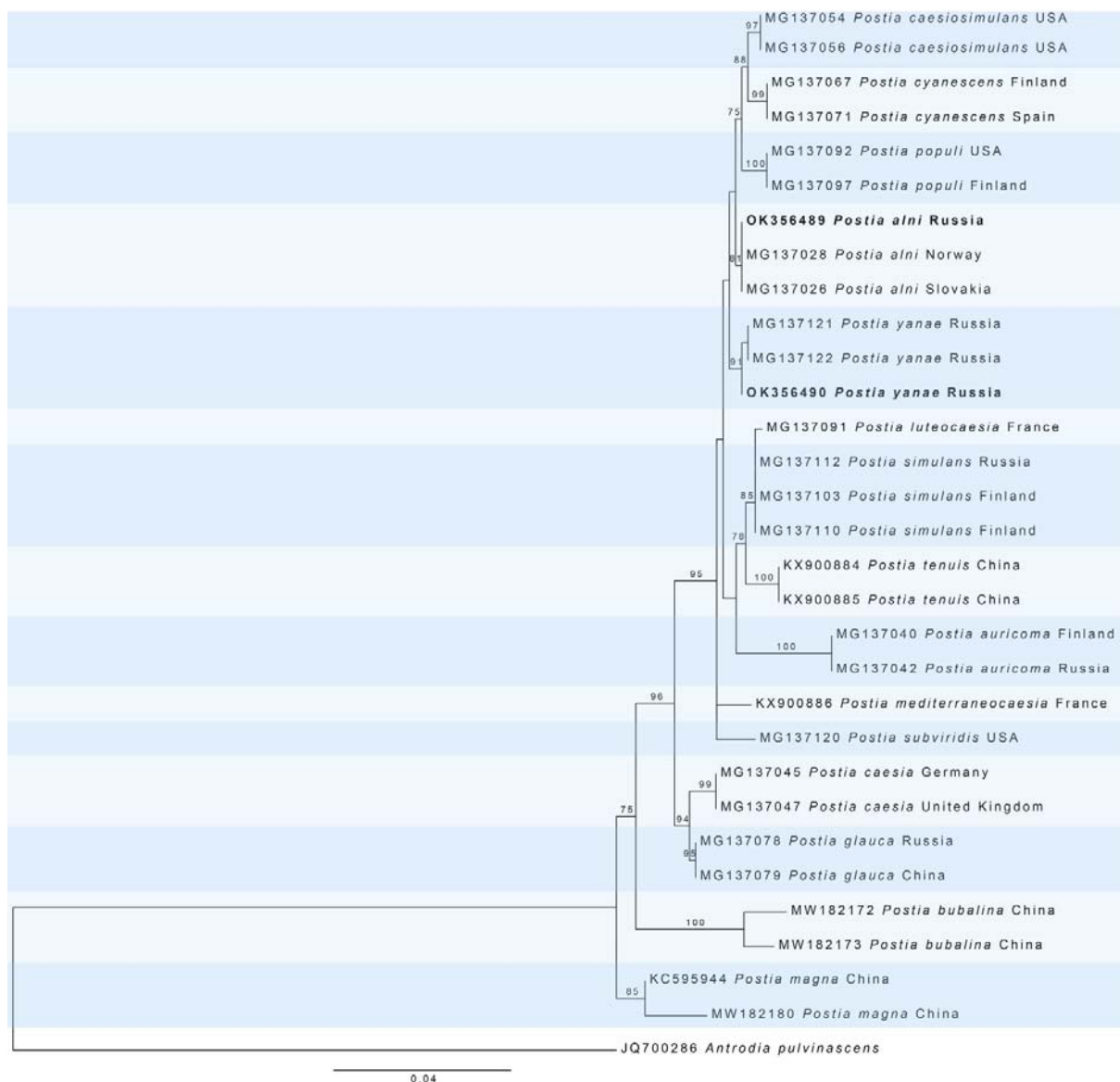


Figure 1. The Maximum Likelihood tree illustrating the phylogeny of *Postia* species, based on ITS sequence dataset. Ultrafast bootstrap values (%) not less than 75 are shown above the branches. Sequence accession numbers (GenBank) are indicated before species names. The sequences obtained in this study are written in bold.

Рисунок 1. Дерево, построенное методом максимального правдоподобия и иллюстрирующее филогению видов *Postia*, на основе ITS-последовательностей. Значения ultrafast bootstrap (не менее 75%) показаны над ветвями. Номера последовательностей (в базе данных GenBank) отобранных таксонов указаны перед видовыми названиями. Жирным шрифтом выделены названия нуклеотидных последовательностей, полученных в данном исследовании.

The highest species richness was registered within the genera *Antrodia* s. l. (with *Amyloporia* and *Cartilosoma*) (5 species), *Ceriporia* (5 species), *Gloeophyllum* (4 species), *Phellinus* s. l. (with *Fomitiporia*, *Fuscoporia*, *Phellinopsis*) (8 species), *Postia* (7 species), *Trametes* s. l. (with *Lenzites* and *Pycnoporus*) (8 species). This spectrum of leading genera is characteristic of the boreal zone and is determined by the predominance of pine forests with *Pinus kochiana* in the surveyed area.

Most of fungal species were found on wood of *Betula* spp., including *Betula litwinowii*, *B. pendula* and *B. raddeana* (34 species), and *Pinus kochiana* (26 species). *Irpex lacteus* recorded on six tree species had the widest host range (*Alnus*, *Betula*, *Carpinus*, *Juniperus*, *Pinus*, *Populus*). Eleven species of xylotrophic fungi were associated with living trees, including three species exhibiting facultative phytopathogenic activity (*Fomes fomentarius*, *Fomitopsis betulina*, *Phellinopsis conchata*).

The list of species is provided below with data on localities, occupied substrata, types of habitat and herbarium numbers of specimens examined. The nomenclature of fungal taxa follows the Index Fungorum (2021) [27]. The species new to the Republic of Dagestan are marked with “!” and new to the Caucasus – with “!!”.

Annotated list of species

AGARICALES

! *Porothelium fimbriatum* (Pers.) Fr. - #5, #1: on fallen trunks of *Betula* spp. and on fallen branches of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-rich birch forests (LE F-334622).

CANTHARELLALES

!! *Sistotrema albuluteum* (Bourdot & Galzin) Bondartsev & Singer – #16: on fallen trunk of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-rich pine-dominated forest (LE F-334636). The species has a scattered distribution in Europe [16], growing on very

rotten wood and plant remnants mainly in moist broadleaf and mixed deciduous-coniferous forests. The Gunib find of *S. alboluteum* seems to be corresponding to a suitable humidity and low anthropogenic pressure in the forests of the Plateau.

!! *Sistotrema muscicola* (Pers.) S. Lundell - #5: on fallen trunk of *Betula* sp. in herb-rich birch forest (LE F-334637).

GLOEOPHYLLALES

! *Gloeophyllum abietinum* (Bull.) P. Karst. - #8: on fallen trunk of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest with birch (LE F-334599).

Gloeophyllum protractum (Fr.) Imazeki - #8: on fallen trunk of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest with birch (LE F-334598).

Gloeophyllum sepiarium (Wulfen) P. Karst. - #32: on fallen branches of *Pinus kochiana* in green-moss pine-dominated forest (LE F-334601).

Gloeophyllum trabeum (Pers.) Murrill - #35: on timber wood of *Pinus kochiana* (LE F-334600).

HYMENOGASTRALES

! *Fomitiporia punctata* (P. Karst.) Murrill - #11, #23: on living trees of *Salix caprea* in herb-rich pine-dominated forest with birch and herb-rich birch forest with pine (LE F-334615).

Fuscoporia contigua (Pers.) G. Cunn. - #28: on fallen branches of *Carpinus betulus* in herb-rich aspen forest with hornbeam (LE F-334611).

Fuscoporia ferruginosa (Schrad.) Murrill - #2, #5: on fallen trunk and branches of *Betula* sp. in herb-rich birch forests (LE F-334616).

Inonotus obliquus (Fr.) Pilát - #2: on living tree of *Betula* sp. in herb-rich pine-dominated forest with birch (LE F-334604).

!! *Kneiffiella abdita* Riebesehl & Langer - #16, #19: on fallen trunks of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-rich pine-dominated forest and herb-fern birch forest with alder (LE F-334605). This species is known from a few countries in Europe, otherwise known in East Asia and North America [15], but extremely rare everywhere. In Russia, *K. abdita* has only been registered in seven regions, namely in Komi Republic and Leningrad Region, being included in the regional Red Data Books [28; 29], as well as in Oryol Region [30; 31], Rostov Region [32], Tver Region [33], Sverdlovsk Region [34], and Novosibirsk Region [35].

Oxyporus corticola (Fr.) Ryvarden - #28: on fallen trunk of *Populus tremula* in herb-rich aspen forest with hornbeam (LE F-334609).

Phellinopsis conchata (Pers.) Y.C. Dai - #7, #1: on fallen trunk of *Betula* sp. and on living tree of *Salix caprea* in herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest and herb-rich birch forest (LE F-334610).

! *Phellinus laevigatus* (P. Karst.) Bourdot & Galzin - #9: on dead standing tree of *Betula* sp. in herb-green-moss birch forest with pine (LE F-334612).

! *Phellinus lundellii* Niemelä - #8: on fallen trunk of *Betula* sp. in herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest with birch (LE F-334613).

Phellinus nigricans (Fr.) P. Karst. - #2: on living tree of *Betula* sp. in herb-rich birch forest (LE F-334614).

Phellinus tremulae (Bondartsev) Bondartsev & P.N. Borisov - #24: on living tree of *Populus tremula* in herb-rich aspen forest (Fig. 2).



Figure 2. Basidiocarp of *Phellinus tremulae* (not documented by voucher). Photo S.V. Volobuev
Рисунок 2. Базидиома *Phellinus tremulae* (образец не собран). Фото С.В. Волобуева

! *Phylloporia ribis* (Schumacher) Ryvarden - #33: on living stem of *Euonymus verrucosus* in herb-fern aspen forest with pine (LE F-334617).

! *Sidera lenis* (P. Karst.) Miettinen - #6, #16: on fallen trunks of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-rich pine-dominated forest and herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest (LE F-334634).

Sidera vulgaris (Fr.) Miettinen - #4: on fallen trunk of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-rich pine-dominated forest (LE F-334635).

Trichaptum fuscoviolaceum (Ehrenb.) Ryvarden - #9: on fallen branches of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-rich birch forest with pine (LE F-334646).

Xylodon flaviporus (Berk. & M.A. Curtis ex Cooke) Riebesehl & Langer - #3, #4, #5: on fallen trunk and branches of *Betula* spp. in herb-rich birch forests (LE F-334632).

Xylodon raduloides Riebesehl & Langer - #3, #28: on fallen trunk of *Betula* sp. and on dry attached branches of *Carpinus betulus* in herb-rich birch forest and herb-rich aspen forest with hornbeam (LE F-334633).

POLYPORALES

Amyloporia sinuosa (Fr.) Rajchenb., Gorjón & Pildain – #5, #6, #7, #8, #15, #95, #23, #27, #30: on fallen trunks of *Pinus kochiana* and *Betula* spp. in herb-green-moss pine-dominated forests, herb-green-moss pine-dominated forests with birch, herb-rich pine-dominated forest, herb-rich pine-dominated forest with birch and hornbeam and herb-rich birch forest (LE F-334581, LE F-334582, LE F-334583).

! *Amyloporia xantha* (Fr.) Bondartsev & Singer – #14: on fallen branches of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest with birch (LE F-334584).

!! *Antrodia minuta* Spirin – #28: on fallen trunk and branches of *Populus tremula* in herb-rich aspen forest with hornbeam (LE F-334577, LE F-334578).

! *Antrodia serialis* (Fr.) Donk – #34: on fallen branches of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-rich pine-dominated forest with birch (LE F-334580).

!! *Antrodiella ichnusana* Bernicchia, Renvall & Arras – #18: on dry attached branches of *Alnus incana* in herb-fern birch forest with alder (LE F-334585).

! *Aurantiporus fissilis* (Berk. & M.A.Curtis) H.Jahn ex Ryvarden – #153: on living tree of *Betula* sp. in herb-rich birch forest (LE F-334586).

Auriporia aurulenta A. David, Tortiĉ & Jelić – #8, #23, #26: on fallen trunks of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest (LE F-334587, LE F-334589) (Fig. 3).



Figure 3. Basidiocarp of *Auriporia aurulenta* (LE F-334589). Photo Yu.Yu. Ivanushenko

Рисунок 3. Базидиома *Auriporia aurulenta* (LE F-334589). Фото Ю.Ю. Иванушенко

Bjerkandera adusta (Willd.) P. Karst. – #12, #31: on stump of *Betula* sp. and on dead standing tree of *Populus tremula* in herb-fern birch forest and herb-green-moss aspen forest (LE F-334588).

!! *Cartilosoma ramentaceum* (Berk. & Broome) Teixeira – #9: on fallen trunk of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-rich birch forest with pine (LE F-334579).

! *Ceriporia aurantiocarnescens* (Henn.) M. Pieri & B. Rivoire – #12: on stump of *Betula* sp. in herb-fern birch forest (LE F-334590). The species was previously known for the Caucasus only from Georgia [36].

Ceriporia bresadolae (Bourdot & Galzin) Donk – #6, #25, #32: on fallen trunks and branches of *Pinus kochiana* in green-moss pine-dominated forest, herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest, herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest with birch (LE F-334590).

! *Ceriporia purpurea* (Fr.) Donk – #11: on dry attached branch of *Salix caprea* in herb-rich pine-dominated forest with birch (LE F-334591).

!! *Ceriporia torpida* Spirin & Miettinen – #17: on fallen branches of *Alnus incana* in floodplain alder forest (LE F-334592). The first Russian finds of this species were registered in the European part of Russia as a result of xylotrophic pathogenic fungi inventory studies in orchards [37]. Our record of *C. torpida* on the Gunib Plateau is the first collection in the Caucasus and has been proved by

both a microscopic study and an analysis of the ITS nrDNA sequence (unpublished data).

Ceriporia viridans (Berk. & Broome) Donk – #13, #23: on fallen trunks of *Betula* spp. in herb-rich birch forest and herb-rich birch forests with pine (LE F-334593).

Cerrena unicolor (Bull.) Murrill – #5: on fallen trunk of *Betula* sp. in herb-rich birch forest (LE F-334594).

Daedaleopsis confragosa (Bolton) J. Schröt. – #1: on living tree of *Salix caprea* in herb-rich birch forest (LE F-334596).

Daedaleopsis tricolor (Bull.) Bondartsev & Singer – #2: on fallen trunk of *Salix caprea* in herb-rich birch forest (LE F-334595).

! *Diplomitoporus flavescens* (Bres.) Domański – #36: on dry standing tree of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest (LE F-334648).

Fomes fomentarius (L.) Fr. – #12, #14, #17, #19: on dry standing trees and fallen trunks of *Alnus incana* and *Betula* sp., on living tree of *Salix caprea* in herb-rich birch forests, herb-rich pine-dominated forest with birch and floodplain alder forest with birch and hornbeam.

Fomitopsis betulina (Bull.) B.K. Cui, M.L. Han & Y.C. Dai – #17: on dry standing trees, fallen trunks and branches of *Betula* spp., on living tree of *Betula raddeana* in herb-rich pine-dominated forest, herb-rich pine-dominated forest with birch, herb-fern birch forest, floodplain alder forest.



Figure 4. Basidiocarps of *Fomitopsis betulina* (not documented by voucher). Photo S.V. Volobuev
Рисунок 4. Базидиомы *Fomitopsis betulina* (образец не собран). Фото С.В. Волобуева

Fomitopsis pinicola (Sw.) P. Karst. – #18: on fallen trunks of *Alnus incana*, *Betula* sp., *Carpinus betulus* in herb-rich pine-dominated forest with birch and floodplain alder forest with birch and hornbeam.

Funalia trogii (Berk.) Bondartsev & Singer – #24, #28: on fallen trunk and branches of *Populus tremula* in herb-rich aspen forest and herb-rich aspen forest with hornbeam (LE F-334640).

Ganoderma applanatum (Pers.) Pat. – #2, #34: on stump of *Betula* sp. and on dead standing tree of *Salix caprea* in herb-rich birch forest and herb-rich birch forest with pine (LE F-334597).

Irpex lacteus (Fr.) Fr. – #2, #6, #8, #9, #17, #20, #22, #24: on stump of *Betula* sp., on fallen trunks and branches of *Alnus incana*, *Betula* spp., *Carpinus betulus*, *Pinus kochiana*, *Populus tremula*, on dry attached branches of *Juniperus oblonga* in floodplain alder forest, herb-rich aspen forest, herb-rich birch forest with hornbeam, herb-rich birch forest with pine, herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest, herb-rich pine-dominated forest with birch (LE 314757).

Lentinus arcularius (Batsch) Zmitr. – #1, #9, #11: on fallen trunk and branches of *Betula* sp. and on fallen trunk of *Salix caprea* in herb-rich birch forest, herb-rich birch forest with pine and herb-rich pine-dominated forest with birch (LE F-334618).

Lentinus brumalis (Pers.) Zmitr. – #5, #8, #9: on fallen trunk and branches of *Betula* sp. in herb-rich birch forest, herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest with birch and herb-rich birch forest with pine (LE F-334620).

Lenzites betulina (L.) Fr. – #9: on fallen trunk of *Salix caprea* in herb-green-moss birch forest with pine (LE F-334606).

Lenzites warnieri Durieu & Mont. – #9: on fallen trunk of *Betula* sp. in herb-rich birch forest with pine (LE F-334607).

Meruliopsis taxicola (Pers.) Bondartsev – #7, #10: on fallen trunk, fallen and dry attached branches of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-green-moss pine-dominated forests and herb-rich pine-dominated forest with birch (LE F-334602).

Picipes badius (Pers.) Zmitr. & Kovalenko – #10: at the base of living tree of *Betula* sp. in herb-rich pine-dominated forest with birch (LE F-334619) (Fig. 5).



Figure 5. Basidiocarps of *Picipes badius* (LE F-334619). Photo S.V. Volobuev
Рисунок 5. Базидиомы *Picipes badius* (LE F-334619). Фото С.В. Волобуева

! *Polyporus leptcephalus* (Jacq.) Fr. – #9: on fallen trunk of *Betula* sp. in herb-green-moss birch forest with pine (LE F-334621).

!! *Postia alni* Niemelä & Vampola – #21, #28: on fallen branches of *Populus tremula* and *Tilia cordata* in herb-rich aspen forest with hornbeam and herb-rich birch forest with hornbeam (LE F-334624, LE F-334625).

Postia caesia (Schrad.) P. Karst. – #6: on fallen trunk of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest (LE F-334608).

! *Postia hibernica* (Berk. & Broome) Jülich – #9: on fallen trunk of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-green-moss birch forest with pine (LE F-334626). The species was previously known for the Caucasus only from Iran [38; 39].

Postia lactea (Fr.) P. Karst. – #1: on fallen branches of *Juniperus oblonga* in herb-rich birch forest (LE 314760).

!! *Postia lateritia* Renvall – #6, #26: on fallen trunks of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-green-moss pine-dominated forests (LE F-334627).

!! *Postia leucomallella* (Murrill) Jülich – #8, #31: on fallen trunks and branches of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-green-

moss pine-dominated forest and herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest with birch (LE F-334628).

!! *Postia yanae* Miettinen & Kotir. – #8: on fallen trunk of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest with birch (LE F-334630). Based on a megablast search of NCBI GenBank nucleotide database [21; 22], the ITS sequence had highest similarity to *Postia yanae* (voucher Heikki Kotiranta 27879 (H 7036282), GenBank MG137125; Identities = 730/732 (99 %), no gaps), *P. yanae* (voucher Heikki Kotiranta 27606 (H), GenBank MG137122; Identities = 729/731 (99 %), no gaps) and *P. yanae* (voucher Heikki Kotiranta 27677 (H), GenBank MG137123; Identities = 728/730 (99 %), no gaps).

! *Pycnoporus cinnabarinus* (Jacq.) P. Karst. – #5, #9, #26: on fallen trunks and branches of *Betula* spp. in herb-rich birch forest, herb-rich birch forest with pine and herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest with birch (LE F-334631) (Fig. 6).

Skeletocutis amorpha (Fr.) Kotl. & Pouzar – #8, #23, #25: on fallen trunks of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest and herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest with birch (LE F-334638) (Fig. 7).



Figure 6. Basidiocarp of *Pycnoporus cinnabarinus* (LE F-334631). Photo Yu.Yu. Ivanushenko
Рисунок 6. Базидиома *Рупнопорус cinnabarinus* (LE F-334631). Фото Ю.Ю. Иванушенко



Figure 7. Basidiocarps of *Skeletocutis amorpha* (LE F-334638). Photo S.V. Volobuev
Рисунок 7. Базидиомы *Skeletocutis amorpha* (LE F-334638). Фото С.В. Волобуева

Trametes hirsuta (Wulfen) Lloyd - #9: on fallen trunk of *Betula* sp. in herb-rich birch forest with pine (LE F-334641).

Trametes ljubarskyi Pilát - #9: on timber wood of *Pinus kochiana* (LE F-334639).

Trametes ochracea (Pers.) Gilb. & Ryvarden - #2: on dry fallen trunk of *Betula* sp. in herb-rich birch forest with pine (LE F-334642).

Trametes pubescens (Schumacher.) Pilát - #2, #5: on dead standing tree and fallen trunk of *Betula* sp. in herb-

rich birch forest and herb-rich birch forest with pine (LE F-334643).

Trametes versicolor (L.) Lloyd - #9, #12: on fallen trunks of *Betula* sp. in herb-rich birch forest with pine and herb-fern birch forest (LE F-334644).

! *Tyromyces kmetii* (Bres.) Bondartsev & Singer - #5, #8, #23: on fallen trunks and branches of *Betula* spp. in herb-rich birch forest, herb-rich birch forest with pine and herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest (LE F-334647) (Fig. 8).



Figure 8. Basidiocarps of *Tyromyces kmetii* (LE F-334647). Photo S.V. Volobuev

Рисунок 8. Базидиомы *Tyromyces kmetii* (LE F-334647). Фото С.В. Волобуева

RUSSULALES

Heterobasidion annosum (Fr.) Bref. - #15, #25, #26, #29: on fallen trunks of *Pinus kochiana* and *Betula* sp., on stump of *Pinus kochiana*, on dead standing tree of *Juniperus oblonga*

in herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest, herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest with birch and herb-rich hornbeam forest with pine and birch (LE 314755, LE F-334603) (Fig. 9).



Figure 9. Basidiocarps of *Heterobasidion annosum* (LE F-334603). Photo Yu.Yu. Ivanushenko

Рисунок 9. Базидиомы *Heterobasidion annosum* (LE F-334603). Фото Ю.Ю. Иванушенко

TRECHISPORALES

Porpomyces mucidus (Pers.) Jülich - #21: on fallen branches of *Betula* sp. in herb-rich birch forest with hornbeam (LE F-334623).

! *Trechispora candidissima* (Schwein.) Bondartsev & Singer - #15: on fallen branches of *Pinus kochiana* in herb-green-moss pine-dominated forest with birch (LE F-334645).

CONCLUSION

The revealed species richness of polypores has expanded the current knowledge on the mycobiota of the Gunib Plateau and its links with plant communities. The vast majority of the species identified (65 species, 89%) are xylosaprotrophs developing on dead wood of fallen trunks and branches. Poroid fungi, having a rich complex of lignocellulolytic enzymes, ensure the stability of the cycle

of biogenic elements in forest ecosystems, and at the same time, are a sensitive indicator of anthropogenic changes in the nature environment. Further studies of poroid fungi in the Gunib Plateau should be aimed at assessing their indicator and conservation value.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors collected the material, discussed the results and participated in the writing of the manuscript. Sergey V. Volobuev and Yuliya Yu. Ivanushenko carried out the microscopic identification of species and the molecular study of the collected specimens. All authors are equally responsible for plagiarism, self-plagiarism and other ethical transgressions.

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Все авторы участвовали в сборе материала, обсуждении результатов и написании рукописи. Сергей В. Волобуев и Юлия Ю. Иванушенко выполнили микроскопическую идентификацию видов и молекулярно-генетическое изучение собранных образцов. Все авторы в равной степени несут ответственность за плагиат, самоплагиат и другие неэтические проблемы.

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