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*Tuber thracicum* Slavova, M. Leonardi, A. Paz, Assyov & Pacioni, sp. nov.

IF 901210

Holotype SOMF 30882

Ascomata globose, sometimes hollow at the base, reddish-brown with greyish tint to blackish; peridium with moderately pronounced irregular warts with truncated apex; gleba compact, marbled, at maturity with brownish violaceous tint; sterile veins cream, sometimes reddening or with somewhat cottony appearance. Odour of bitter almonds; flavour nutty. Peridium thick, two-layered. Asci 1–4-spored, rarely with 5–6 spores. Ascospores ellipsoid to subglobose, up to 50 × 34 µm, dark brown, with up to 4 µm long, rarely up to 6.5 µm, fragile, often curved spines.

Notes: *Tuber thracicum* is genetically very close to another Balkan species belonging to the *Melanosporium* clade, namely *T. petrophilum* Milenković et al., which produces small excavated ascomas and is frequently collected in the humus accumulations of calcareous rocks. The new species of black truffle must certainly be ascribed to the group of *T. brumale* Vittad., which seems to be well represented in the Balkan area.

Specimens examined: BULGARIA, Burgas, Malko Tarnovo, Mladezhko, Strandzha Natural Park, *Corylus avellana* L., *Carpinus betulus* L., 42°09'03.6"N 27°23'40.2"E, October 26, 2021, M. Slavova & O. Ligabue (SOMF 30882 holotype, ITS sequence GenBank: OR666020, nrLSU sequence GenBank OR644426; AQUI 10401 isotype, ITS sequence GenBank: OR66602, nrLSU sequence GenBank: OR644427); Burgas, Brodilovo, Strandzha Natural Park, *C. avellana*, *C. betulus*, 42°04'34.7"N 27°50'33.1"E, October 29, 2021, M. Slavova & O. Ligabue (SOMF 30883 and AQUI 10402, paratype, ITS sequence GenBank: OR666027, nrLSU sequence GenBank: OR644432); Burgas, Malko Tarnovo, Mladezhko, Strandzha Natural Park, *C. avellana*, *C. betulus*, *Quercus cerris* L. 42°09'03.6"N 27°23'40.2"E, November 8, 2016, N. Kolev (SOMF 30884 and AQUI 10403, paratype, ITS sequence GenBank: OR666022, nrLSU sequence GenBank: OR644428); ibidem, *C. avellana*, *C. betulus*, *Q. cerris*, September 25, 2019, 42°08'07.8"N 27°27'47.3"E, R. Radev (SOMF 30885, paratype, ITS sequence GenBank: OR666024, nrLSU sequence GenBank: OR644430); Burgas, Haskovo, *Quercus* sp., December 11, 2020, D. Kitev (AQUI 10404, paratype, ITS sequence GenBank: OR666026, nrLSU sequence GenBank: OR644431); ibidem, *Quercus* sp., October 9, 2019, D. Kitev (SOMF 30899, paratype, ITS sequence GenBank: OR666025); Varna, Krivini, *Ostrya carpinifolia* Scop. and *Q. cerris* October 10, 2018, 42°58'42.229"N 27°40'18.674"E, P. Bozadzhiev (SOMF 30886 and AQUI10405; paratype, ITS sequence GenBank: OR666023, nrLSU sequence GenBank: OR644429); Burgas, Malko Tarnovo, Mladezhko, Strandzha Natural Park, *C. avellana*, *C. betulus*, *Q. cerris*, November 8, 2016, N. Kolev (SOMF 30887); ibidem, October 26, 2021, M. Slavova & O. Ligabue (SOMF 30888).

Etymology: from Thracia (present Thrace), the ancient name of the area, where the holotype of the new species was collected.