

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service

Systematic Mycology and Microbiology Laboratory - Nomenclature Fact Sheets

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***Auricularia auricula-judae* (Bull.:Fr.) Wettst. 1885**

The first valid description of this species was by Linnaeus as *Tremella auricula* L. 1753. The nomenclatural history of this name was complicated by Fries, who sanctioned the name *Exidia auricula-judae* in 1823, citing *Tremella Auricula Judae* Linn.. This is apparently an error, as no record of publication of *auricula-judae* by Linnaeus could be located. Later authors followed Fries, erroneously attributing the epithet *auricula-judae* to Linnaeus (e.g. Wettstein 1885, Quelet 1886, Saccardo 1888). In fact, Bulliard was the first to validly publish the epithet, as *Tremella auricula-judae* Bull. 1789. *Tremella auricula-judae* Bull. 1789 is a superfluous name for *Tremella auricula* L. 1753, but *auricula-judae* has priority due to its sanctioning by Fries (Art. 15.1). According to Donk (1941 p. 161), Fries assigned *Tremella auricula-judae* to the genus *Exidia* based on examination of fresh specimens of an *Exidia* sp., later recognizing his error. Because Fries did not explicitly exclude the type of the basionym *Tremella auricula-judae*, this misapplication does not alter the type, which remains that of *Tremella auricula-judae* (Art. 7.4).

The nomenclature of the generic name *Auricularia* is controversial (see Donk 1941, 1949, 1958). Donk's proposals to conserve *Auricularia* Bull. 1789 (as Bull. ex Marat 1821) against several other homonyms were later found to be unnecessary and were withdrawn by the author (Donk 1958). Donk selected *Auricularia tremelloides* Bull. = *Auricularia mesenterica* as type from among the species originally described by Bulliard in the genus. Persoon (1818) and Brongniart (1822) considered *Auricularia auricula-judae* (as *Peziza auricula* L.) to be the type of the genus, but this was not among the species originally described in *Auricularia* by Bulliard (1791) (see Donk 1958). The synonyms *Auricula judae* Kuntze 1891 and *Auricula ampla* Kuntze 1891 are invalid names, in an invalid genus (Art. 43.1) (see Donk 1958).

Nomenclature Report:

***Auricularia auricula-judae* (Bull. : Fr.) Wettst. 1885 (Basidiomycetes, Auriculariales)**

≡ *Tremella auricula-judae* Bull. : Fr. 1789 Note: Superfluous replacement name (nom. nov.), but sanctioned by Fries.

≡ *Auricularia auricula* (L.) Underw. 1902

≡ *Exidia auricula* Wallr. 1833 Note: Wallroth erroneously cited *Exidia auricula* Fr. , but Fries published only the name *Exidia auricula-judae*.

≡ *Hirneola auricula* (L.) H. Karst. 1880

≡ *Merulius auricula* (L.) Roth 1788

≡ *Peziza auricula* (L.) L. 1767 Note: Not the illegitimate later homonym *Peziza auricula* (Schaeff.) Cooke 1875 = *Helvella auricula*. Revalidated name, previously cited as L. ex Mérat or L. ex Schaeff.

≡ *Tremella auricula* L. 1753 Note: Several later authors erroneously cited this name as *Tremella auricula judae* L. 1753, but the name *Tremella auricula-judae* was first published by Bulliard in 1789.

≡ *Auricularia auricula* f. *auricula* (L.) Underw. 1902

≡*Exidia auricula-judae* (Bull. : Fr.) Fr. 1822 Note: Sanctioned by Fries. Fries cited L. but adopted the epithet *auricula-judae* published by Bulliard. According to Donk, misapplied based on specimens of an *Exidia* sp., but Fries did not explicitly exclude the type.

≡*Hirneola auricula-judae* (Bull. : Fr.) Berk. 1860

≡*Peziza auricula-judae* (Bull. : Fr.) Bull. 1791 Note: A superfluous name, but sanctioned.

≡*Auricularia auricula-judae* f. *auricula-judae* (Bull. : Fr.) Wettst. 1885 Note: Autonym not needed.

≡*Auricularia auricula-judae* var. *auricula-judae* (Bull. : Fr.) Wettst. 1885 Note: Autonym not needed.

≡*Auricularia judae* Fr. 1816 Note: See Donk 1958 p. 171 mid first column. Whahlenberg (1826), Link (1833), and Secr. (1833) are sometimes erroneously cited as the authors of this name.

≡*Auricularia sambuci* Pers. 1822 Note: A superfluous name (Art. 52.1); Persoon cited *Tremella auricula*.

= *Auricularia ampla* Pers. 1826

≡ *Exidia ampla* (Pers.) Lév. 1846 Note: Checked protologue, in reprints.

≡ *Hirneola ampla* (Pers.) Sacc. 1888 Note: Author changed from (Pers.) Fr., Sacc. did not cite Fr.

= *Auricularia auricula-judae* var. *lactea* Qué. 1886

≡ *Hirneola auricula-judae* var. *lactea* (Qué.) D.A. Reid 1970

≡ *Auricularia lactea* (Qué.) Bigeard Note: Year could not be located.

= *Gyraria auricularis* Gray 1821

≡ *Auricularia auricularis* (Gray) G.W. Martin 1943 Note: (Gray) Donk 1949 is an erroneous author citation for this fungus.

= *Auricularia sambucina* G. Martin 1817

Notes: The nomenclature of the generic name *Auricularia* is controversial (see Donk 1941, 1949, 1958). Donk's proposals to conserve *Auricularia* Bull. 1789 (as Bull. ex Marat 1821) against several other homonyms were later found to be unnecessary and were withdrawn by the author (Donk 1958). Donk selected *Auricularia tremelloides* Bull. = *Auricularia mesenterica* as type from among the species originally described by Bulliard in the genus. Persoon (1818) and Brongniart (1822) considered *Peziza auricula* L. to be the type of the genus, but this was not among the species originally described in *Auricularia* by Bulliard (1791) (see Donk 1958). The first valid description of *Auricularia auricula-judae* was by Linnaeus as *Tremella auricula* L. 1753. The nomenclatural history of this name was complicated by Fries, who sanctioned *Exidia auricula-judae* in 1823, citing *Tremella Auricula Judae* Linn. This is apparently an error, as no record of publication of *auricula-judae* by Linnaeus could be located. Later authors followed Fries, erroneously attributing the epithet *auricula-judae* to Linnaeus (e.g. Wettstein 1885, Quelet 1886, Saccardo 1888). In fact, Bulliard was the first to validly publish the epithet, as *Tremella auricula-judae* Bull. 1789. *Tremella auricula-judae* Bull. 1789 is a superfluous name for *Tremella auricula* L. 1753, but *auricula-judae* has priority due to its sanctioning by Fries (Art. 15.1). According to Donk (1941 p. 161), Fries assigned this fungus to the genus *Exidia* based on examination of fresh specimens of an *Exidia* sp., later recognizing his error. Because Fries did not explicitly exclude the type of the basionym *Tremella auricula* L. 1753, this misapplication does not alter the type, which remains that of *Tremella auricula* (Art. 7.4). The synonyms *Auricula judae* Kuntze 1891 and *Auricula ampla*

Kuntze 1891 are invalid names, in an invalid genus (Art. 43.1) (see Donk 1958).)

Distribution: Cosmopolitan.

Substrate: Wood, often coniferous.

Disease Note: Commercially harvested edible fungus.

Host: Multiple plant families.

Internal Note: Wettstein Vorarbeiten zu einer Pilzflora der Steiermark Dec. 1885 pre-print from Verh. Zool.-Bot. Ges. Wien 35:529-618 Jan 1886.

Supporting Literature:

Donk, M.A. 1941. Nomina generica conservanda and confusa for Basidiomycetes (Fungi). Bull. Bot. Gard. Buitenzorg Ser. III 17 pt 1: 155-197.

Donk, M.A. 1949. New and revised nomina generica conservanda proposed for Basidiomycetes (Fungi). Bull. Bot. Gard. Buitenzorg Ser. III 18: 83-168.

Donk, M.A. 1958. The generic names proposed for Hymenomycetes--VIII. Auriculariaceae, Septobasidiaceae, Tremellaceae, Dacrymycetaceae. Taxon 7: 164-178.

Lowy, B. 1952. The genus *Auricularia*. Mycologia 44: 656-692.

Wettstein, R.v. 1885. Vorarbeiten zu einer Pilzflora de Steiermark. Unknown journal or publisher, -- pages.

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