Pseudombrophila purpurea can be distinguished from *P. albicans* and *P. ramosa* by its growth in association with *Byssonectria terrestris* and the mixed structure of its medulla. The ascospores in *P. purpurea* are larger than in *P. ramosa* and less elongated in shape than in *P. albicans*.

28. **Pseudombrophila ramosa** (Velen.) Brumm., *comb. nov.* — Fig. 32, Pl. 25a–c

Lachnea ramosa Velen., Monogr. Disc. Boh. 1: 309. 1934 (basionym). — *Anthracobia ramosa* (Velen.) Svrček, Sb. nár. Mus. Praze IV B, No. 6 (Bot.): 74. 1948. — Holotype: Czechia, Bohemia, Stráněice, sv. Anna, X.1927, *J. Velenovský* (PRM 147263).

DESCRIPTION. — *Apothecia* scatered, superficial, sessile, 3–4 mm diam., 0.7–2 mm high. *Receptacle* at first obconical, then scutellate, 'pallid', with reddish brown pigment, fleshy; the surface almost smooth, somewhat pubescent; the margin with a raised rim, more or less fimbriate ('fusco-pilosa'). *Disc* concave to flat, smooth.

Hymenium 125–140 μm thick. *Hypothecium* up to 23 μm thick, of closely compacted fairly thin-walled, isodiametric cells 2.3–5 μm wide. *Medullary excipulum* clearly differentiated, up to or over 500 μm thick, hyaline, pale brownish near the margin, consisting of interlaced, subcylindrical, branched hyphae 2.5–7 μm wide (textura intricata), together with rather dispersed subglobular cells 6–18 μm wide especially in the lower part. *Cortical excipulum* clearly differentiated, near the base 18–35 μm thick, pale brownish, consisting of closely compacted thick-walled, subglobular cells 7–18 μm wide (textura globulosa). *Hairs* of two types, both arising from the outermost layer of the excipulum. Near the margin rather scarce, often hyphoid, subcylindrical, standing away from the surface, branched, septate, with the individual cells often slightly swollen, hyaline or covered with amorphous brown pigment, 2.8–5.5 μm wide; at the extreme margin a few rows of 3–4-celled hairs with rounded end cells up to 7 μm diam. Hairs near the base abundant, cylindrical, standing away from the surface, rather tough, very long, branched, septate, rather thick-walled, hyaline, intermingled, smooth, 2.5–4 μm diam.

Asci cylindrical tapering downwards, rounded above, operculate, 100–120 x 10–12 μm, 8-spored; the wall not staining blue with iodine. *Ascospores* obliquely monostichous, ellipsoid (length/width ratio 1.5–1.7, average 1.6), hyaline, 10.7–12.3 x 7.1–7.7 μm (average 11.9 x 7.4 μm, ornamentation excluded), without conspicuous oil drops or granules, not easily producing air-bubbles, rather thin-walled, at first smooth, then ornamented with a pattern of irregularly branching lines of varying thickness and isolated warts, forming an incomplete net-work at maturity; ornamentation up to 0.3 μm high, never apiculate. *Paraphyses* septate, filiform, branched, with amorphous intercellular reddish brown pigment between the upper parts, 1.6–2 μm wide, not enlarged upwards, with rather homogeneous contents.

HABITAT. — Only known from rotting stems of *Trifolium pratense*.

DISTRIBUTION. — Collected only once near Stráněice in Czechia.

ETYMOLOGY. — From Latin, ramosus, branched, bearing many branches; here referring to the paraphyses.

SPECIMEN EXAMINED. — **Czechia**: Bohemia, Stráněice, sv. Anna, on rotting stems of *Trifolium pratense*, X.1927, *J. Velenovský, s.n.* (holotype of *Lachnea ramosa* Velen., PRM 147263).

NOTES. — This species was considered to be a representative of the genus *Anthracobia* Boud. by SVRČEK (1948: 74) and ECKBLAD (1968: 165). Later SVRČEK (1978: 154) revised Velenovský's types and placed it into the synonymy of *P. deerrata* (*P. merdaria*), apparently not noticing the conspicuous subreticulate ornamentation of the mature ascospores.

Lachnea ramosa is the type of the genus *Ramulina* Velen., but the combination under that generic name, as cited by SVRČEK (1948: 74), was never made by Velenovský. So this generic name was not formally accepted by its author.

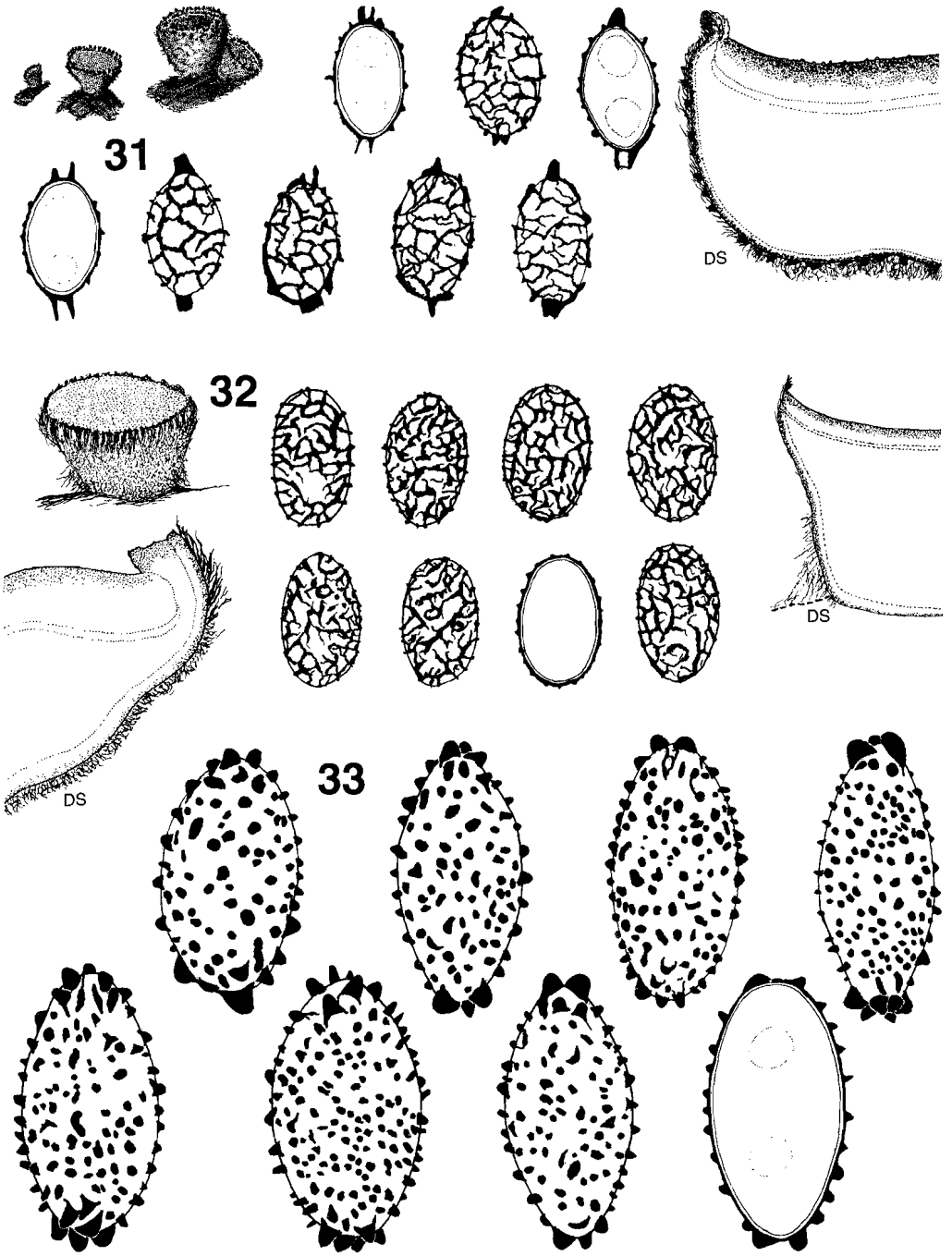

Fig. 31. — *Pseudombrophila minor*: habit of fruit bodies, x 4; diagrammatic section, x 40; ascospores, x 1600. All from holotype of *P. minor*, H.

Fig. 32. — *Pseudombrophila ramosa*: habit of fruit body, x 10; diagrammatic sections, at right x 25, at left x 50; ascospores, x 1600. All from holotype of *Lachnea ramosa*, PRM.

Fig. 33. — *Leucoscypha pallida*: ascospores, x 1600. All from holotype of *Svrcekomyces pallidus*, K.

Pseudombrophila ramosa was found growing on withered vegetable debris with no indication of the presence of dung or urea of animals, neither is there any evidence of an association with *Byssonectria*. *Pseudombrophila earina* grows under similar conditions but differs in having considerably larger ascospores and a scarcely differentiated, entire, smooth apothecial margin.