

***Microglossum pratense* – new significant locality and distribution in Slovakia**

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Recent mycological research in Slovakia has identified several ecologically valuable grassland habitats. Among them is a site near the village of Čierny Balog, which hosts a diverse assemblage of grassland fungi, including numerous species of waxcaps, club and coral fungi, pinkgills, and earth-tongues. Notably, this locality represents a newly documented site of the rare species *Microglossum pratense*. A detailed characterisation of the site is provided, along with a comprehensive list of all known occurrences of this species. Until 2017, *M. pratense* had been recorded from only four localities. However, subsequent investigations have confirmed its presence at six additional sites in Slovakia and one in the Czech Republic. Furthermore, inventory list of noteworthy accompanying species of grassland fungi from the newly documented site near Čierny Balog is presented.

Key words: biodiversity, CHEGD fungi, grasslands, Veporské vrchy Mts, Čierny Balog.

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Nedávny mykologický prieskum na území Slovenska poukázal na prítomnosť viacerých ekologicky cenných trávinnobylinných biotopov. Medzi nimi je aj lokalita v blízkosti Čierneho Balogu, ktorá hostí rôznorodé spoločenstvo lúčnych druhov húb, vrátane viacerých druhov lúčnic, kyjačikov, pakoňárovek, hodvábníc či jazýčkov. Nález vzácného drobnójazyčka *Microglossum pratense* podčiarkuje jej výnimočnosť. Predstavíme detailný opis skúmanej lokality spolu s úplným zoznamom všetkých známych nálezov tohto druhu. Do roku 2017 bol druh *M. pratense* zaznamenaný len na štyroch lokalitách; následné mykologické výskumy však potvrdili jeho výskyt na ďalších šiestich lokalitách na Slovensku a na jednej v Česku. Predkladáme tiež zoznam sprievodných lúčnych druhov húb zo zdokumentovanej lokality u Čierneho Balogu.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Microglossum* Gillet represents a relatively species-poor group within the *Leotiaceae* family, comprising approximately 40 species (Funez et al. 2024). Their club-shaped apothecia are characterised by a fertile part at the apical end and a sterile stipe. A typical feature is their hyaline spores, and all taxa produce picturesque fruitbodies, brightly coloured in shades of yellow, pink, ochre, light brown, and green. In recent years, newly described taxa have been reported from Mexico (Raymundo et al. 2023), Brazil (Funez et al. 2024), and Thailand (Ekanayaka et al. 2019), indicating that the diversity within this genus remains insufficiently explored. The taxonomy of certain species was elaborated by Jia & Yang (2025). Their systematic position within the *Leotiomyces* and relationships to the genera *Thuemenidium* Kuntze and *Leotia* Pers. have been discussed in several studies (e.g. Ekanayaka et al. 2019, Jia & Yang 2025). Species of the genus *Microglossum* are divided into two groups: one characterised by a scaly stipe and the other by a smooth, naked stipe (Kučera et al. 2017). In Slovakia, *M. griseoviride*, which possesses a scaly stipe, occurs in broadleaved forests. Taxa with naked stipes found in the region include *M. olivaceum*, *M. rufescens*, *M. parvisporum*, *M. truncatum*, and *M. pratense*, all of which inhabit grassland environments. These taxa are considered rare and endangered within the Slovak mycota.

Microglossum pratense was originally described from Slovakia in 2017 (Kučera et al. 2017) based on collections from four localities. Since then, its known distribution range has expanded to ten localities (Fig. 1). In this study, we present a newly recorded locality including co-occurring grassland fungal taxa. The Čierny Balog locality is particularly noteworthy due to its atypical climatic conditions observed during the 2024 mycological season. The autumn saw minimal precipitation, and warm days persisted until November, rendering most of the region unsuitable for the growth of grassland fungi. Despite these unfavourable conditions, this site was among the few in Slovakia where CHEGD fungi thrived.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Characteristics of the locality. The presented locality of *Microglossum pratense* near Čierny Balog is situated in the Vepor Mountains (Veporské vrchy, Western Carpathians, Slovakia), on a slope of Urbanov vrch Hill (809 m a.s.l.). It is predominantly a north-facing slope (ranging from northeast to northwest) at an elevation of 550 to 809 m a.s.l. From a geological perspective, the area is composed of early Palaeozoic rock, primarily gneisses and phyllites. The soils in the locality are mainly cambisols and podzolic cambisols. Climatically, the site lies in a subregion characterised by a moderately cool and very humid climate. (Atlas krajiny Slovenskej republiky, <https://app.sazp.sk/atlassr/>). Phytosociologically, the site is dominated by mesophilic grasslands of the *Violion caninae* alliance,

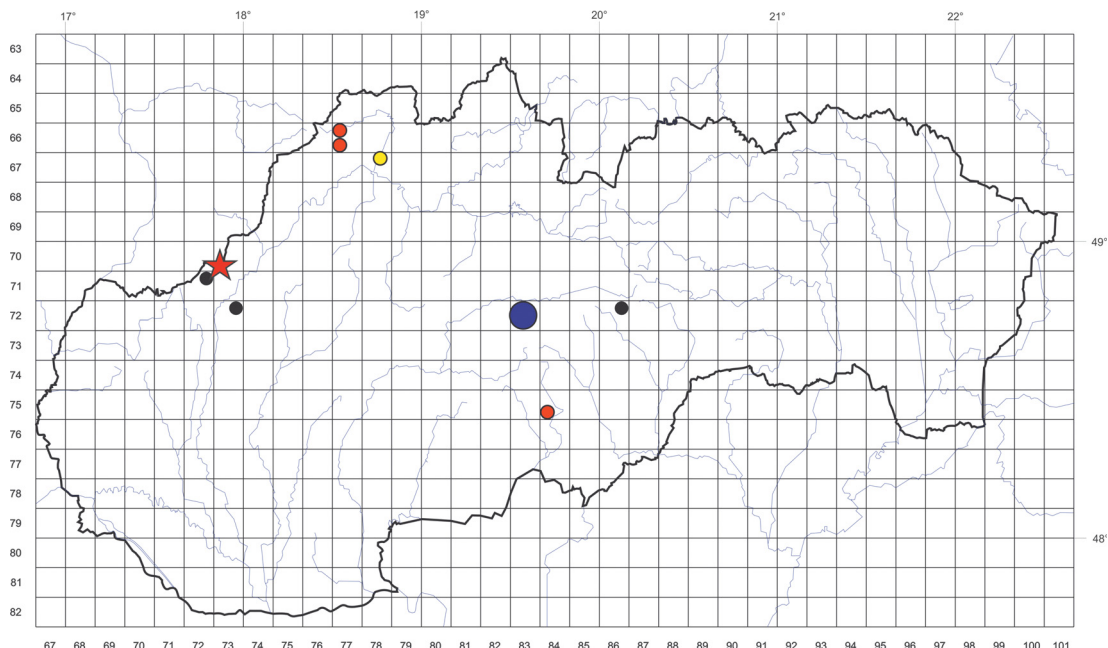


Fig. 1. Localities of *Microglossum pratense* known from Slovakia. Black dots – documented records published by Kučera et al. (2017). Red dots – new records since 2017. Asterisk – one old record and one new record from nearby localities. Yellow dot – new record, not documented by a voucher. Blue dot in the middle – Čierny Balog, the site presented in this paper.

gradually passing into communities of extensive pastures belonging to the *Nardo strictae-Agrostion tenuis* alliance. Solitary individuals of *Juniperus communis* typically occur along the margins of the site. A substantial portion of the area is managed as a ski slope, with regular mowing or mulching in autumn, while the surrounding grassland margins are subject to extensive cattle grazing. Historically, the site shows no major signs of reclamation, fertilisation, or intensification, and has long been used as extensive pastureland and for recreational purposes (Figs 2, 3).

Morphological studies. Macromorphological characteristics, including shape, dimensions, colouration, and surface structure of the ascocarps, were examined in fresh specimens. Micro-morphological features, such as asci, ascospores, paraphyses, stipe hyphae, and amyloid reaction of ascus walls and apical apparatus, were analysed on dried material. Sections of ascocarps were observed in tap water, Congo red and 5% KOH. The amyloid reaction of ascus walls and apical apparatus was assessed using Melzer's reagent (MLZ). Morphometric variation was determined based on 30 measurements, expressed as standard deviations of arithmetic means, with absolute minimum and maximum values provided in parentheses. The Q value of ascospores and asci represents the length-to-width ratio. Microscopic measurements were conducted on material rehydrated in KOH. Voucher specimens are deposited in the fungarium of the Institute of Botany, Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAV) and in the private fungarium of Filip Fuljer (PHFF). Earthtongue fungi (*Geoglossaceae*, *Leotiaceae*) were identified according to Ohenoja (2000), while other grassland fungi were identified following Boertmann (2010), Zajac & Fuljer (2020), Marchetti & Franchi (2021), and Noordeloos et al. (2022). Nomenclature of fungi follows Index Fungorum (www.indexfungorum.org), nomenclature of grassland communities follows Hegedúšová Vantarová & Škodová (2014).



Fig. 2. Čierny Balog, Urbanov vrch, new locality of *Microglossum pratense* in Slovakia, 23 September 2024. Photo V. Kučera.



Fig. 3. Čierny Balog, Urbanov vrch, overall view of the site. Nízke Tatry Mts at the horizon, 23 September 2024. Photo F. Fuljer.

DNA extraction, amplification and sequencing. Genomic DNA was extracted from a small piece of the fertile part of the ascocarp with the DNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). The internal transcribed spacer region (ITS1–5.8S–ITS2) was amplified with primer pair ITS1F/ITS4 (White et al. 1990, Gardes & Bruns 1993), and 28S rDNA with LR0R/LR5 (Vilgalys & Hester 1990). Amplified and purified PCR products were sent to Eurofins Genomics (Ebersberg, Germany) for sequencing. Newly generated sequences were visually checked in Chromas v. 2.6.4 (Technelysium Pty Ltd, South Brisbane, Australia), manually corrected when necessary, and deposited in NCBI GenBank (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/).

RESULTS

Results of the BLAST analysis showed that the ITS and LSU sequences of *M. pratense* specimen from Čierny Balog (SAV F-12217; ITS GenBank PV706194 and LSU GenBank PV706212) were 99.86% identical with ITS and 99.90% identical with LSU sequences from the holotype specimen (SAV 11020; GenBank KJ513006), confirming the identity of the collection.

Microglossum pratense V. Kučera, Tomšovský & Lizoň, *Mycologia* 109(1): 52, 2017 Figs 4, 5

Description. Ascocarps (15)22–55(65) mm tall, tongue-like or club-shaped, stipitate, flattened. Fertile part (16)20–25(30) × (2)3–6(8) mm, mace-shaped, truncate or lanceolate, vertically grooved, sometimes twisted, glabrous, naked, blue-green, grey-green to dark green and often with lateral cracks when dry, usually occupying the upper 1/2 of the ascocarp or more. Stipe (7)10–30(35) × 2–8 mm, often flattened and flexuous, blue-green or concolorous with hymenium.

Asci (75)80.9–89.3(93) × (5)8–9 µm, Q value = 8.3–11.3 (av. = 9.9), 8-spored, cylindrical to clavate, apex rounded, narrowly tapered towards base, biseriate above, uniseriate below, pore bluing in Melzer's reagent. Ascospores (12)14.3–17(18) × (3)4.5–5 µm, Q value = 3–4.5 (av. = 3.6), ellipsoidal to oblong, usually slightly curved or sigmoid, ends obtuse or tapering, rarely one septum observed. Paraphyses filiform, straight, branched in basal part, apical cells filiform, 1–2 µm or only slightly swollen up to 3 µm.

Habitat: pasture, on soil among grass and moss, in vicinity of *Juniperus communis*.

Global distribution: Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Norway, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland (GBIF, https://www.gbif.org/occurrence/search?taxon_key=12230633).



Fig. 4. Ascocarps of *Microglossum pratense* in situ. Čierny Balog, Urbanov vrch, 8 October 2024, leg. V. Kučera & F. Fuljer (SAV F-12217, PHFF4823). Scale bars = 10 mm. Photo F. Fuljer.

Specimen studied

Slovakia. Veporské vrchy Mts, Čierny Balog, Urbanov vrch Hill, 48°44'41.9" N, 19°37'49.5" E, alt. 649 m a.s.l., semi-natural mesophilic grassland grazed by cattle, on soil (among moss, grass, and various other plants), 8 October 2024, leg. V. Kučera & F. Fuljer, det. V. Kučera (SAV F-12217, PHFF4823).

Unpublished verified records of *Microglossum pratense* held in SAV herbarium

Slovakia. Biele Karpaty Mts, Chocholná-Velčice, road to Kykula, 48°55'04.8" N, 17°52'54.3" E, 550 m a.s.l., mixed forest (oak, birch, hazel, spruce, beech), on the ground in leaf litter (co-occurring with *Hygrocybe punicea*, *H. miniata*, *H. intermedia*, and *H. cantharellus*), 27 Sep 2020, leg. M. Kudrna, det. V. Kučera (SAV F-11668); ibidem, 30 Sep 2022, leg. & det. V. Kučera (SAV F-11992). – Javorníky Mts, Kolárovice, hamlet named Babišovci, 49°19'42.9" N, 18°30'05.4" E, 720 m a.s.l., semi-natural grassland grazed by sheep, in grass, plants, and moss, 22 Sep 2020, leg. F. Fuljer, det. V. Kučera (SAV F-11773, PHFF1257). – Turzovská vrchovina Mts, Vysoká nad Kysucou, Klinkovský vrch Hill, 49°22'54.5" N, 18°32'05.3" E, 603 m a.s.l., abandoned encroached terraced field, 30 Oct 2019, leg. V. Kučera, M. Zajac & F. Fuljer, det. V. Kučera (SAV F-11486, PHFF932). – Revúcka vrchovina Mts, Kalinovo, site named Zlámanec, 48°25'10.1" N, 19°42'22.9" E, 274 m a.s.l., mixed forest (*Quercus*, *Acer*, *Pinus sylvestris*), on soil, 3 Sep 2021, leg. J. Hraško, det. V. Kučera (SAV F-11791).

Czech Republic. Moravsko-slezské Beskydy Mts, Staré Hamry, site named Černá, 49°27'21.7" N, 18°28'01.9" E, 530 m a.s.l., semi-natural mown mesophilic grassland, 7 Oct 2022, leg. M. Gavláč & M. Zajac, det. V. Kučera (SAV F-12213); ibidem, 6 Nov 2022, leg. & det. F. Fuljer (PHFF3465).

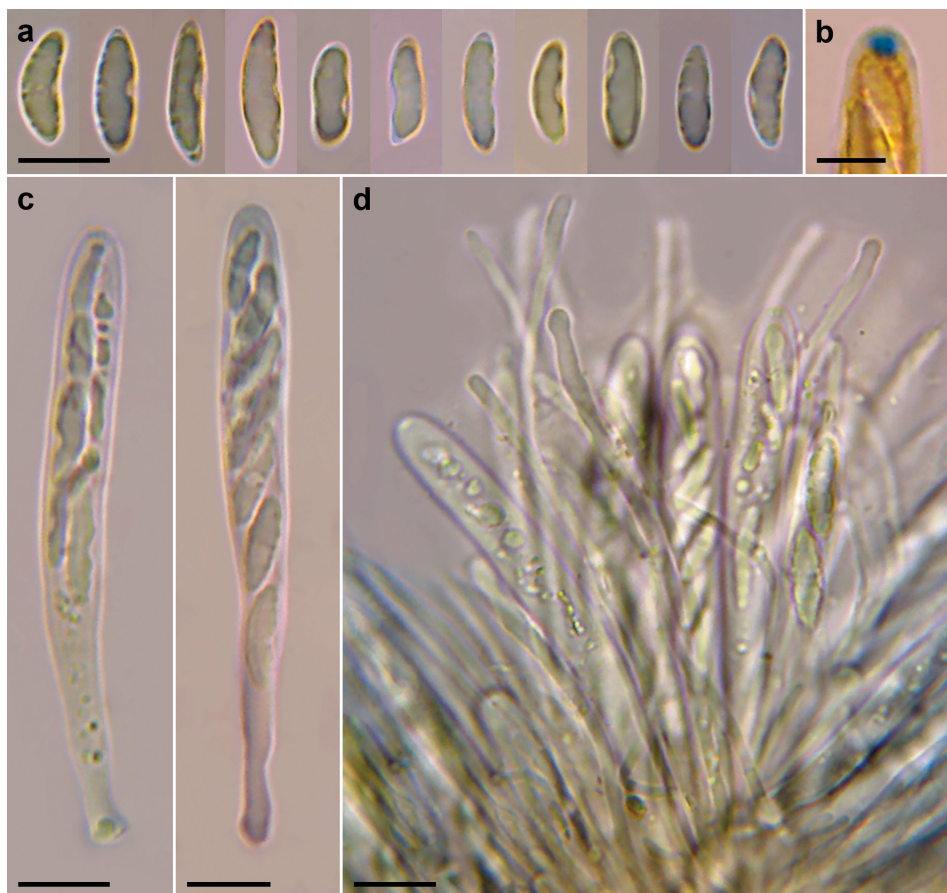


Fig. 5. Micromorphological characters of *Microglossum pratense*. Čierny Balog, Urbanov vrch (SAV F-12217). **a** – ascospores; **b** – coloured apical pore of ascus; **c** – mature asci with ascospores; **d** – hymenium (a, c, d in KOH, b in Melzer's reagent). Scale bars = 10 µm (a, c, d), 5 µm (b). Photo V. Kučera.

Other record of *Microglossum pratense* (not documented by a voucher)

Slovakia. Kysucká vrchovina Mts, Snežnica, site named Brodenec, 49°15'43.3" N, 18°47'03.5" E, 460 m a.s.l., semi-natural cattle-grazed grassland, 29 Oct 2019, leg. F. Fuljer, det. V. Kučera.

List of grassland fungi documented at the locality of Čierny Balog

Camarophylloopsis schulzeri, 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF4558, PHFF4563), 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer (PHFF4787).

Clavaria falcata, 12 Oct 2023, leg. F. Fuljer (PHFF3781, PHFF3785).

Clavaria flavipes, 12 Oct 2023, leg. F. Fuljer (PHFF3786).

Clavaria fragilis, 14 Oct 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF4201, PHFF4202), 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF4561).

Clavaria fumosa, 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF4564).

- Clavaria zollingeri***, 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF4565).
- Clavulinopsis corniculata***, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF4160), 12 Oct 2023, leg. F. Fuljer (PHFF3784).
- Clavulinopsis umbrinella***, 12 Oct 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF3782, PHFF3788), 14 Oct 2023, leg. F. Fuljer (PHFF4200), 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF4560), 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer (PHFF4788).
- Cuphophyllus flavipes***, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF13021), 14 Oct 2023, leg. M. Zajac (PHFF12770), 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13539, PHFF13540, PHFF13550).
- Cuphophyllus fornicatus***, 12 Oct 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF12855, PHFF12858), 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13644).
- Cuphophyllus lepidopus***, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF13112, PHFF13113), 12 Oct 2023, leg. F. Fuljer (PHFF12849).
- Cuphophyllus pratensis***, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF13016), 12 Oct 2023, leg. F. Fuljer (PHFF12846), 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13538, PHFF13593), 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13639, PHFF13651).
- Cuphophyllus pratensis* var. *pallidus***, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF13013, PHFF13018), 12 Oct 2023, leg. F. Fuljer (PHFF12852), 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13549).
- Cuphophyllus russocoriaceus***, 14 Oct 2023, leg. M. Zajac (PHFF12769), 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13641).
- Cuphophyllus virgineus***, 23 Sep 2024, leg. & det. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13542).
- Entoloma griseocyaneum***, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF4170), 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF4559).
- Entoloma infula***, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF4165).
- Entoloma jubatum***, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF4163).
- Entoloma serrulatum***, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF4169).
- Gliophorus psittacinus***, 12 Oct 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF12851), 14 Oct 2023, leg. M. Zajac (PHFF12766), 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13577), 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13645).
- Hygrocybe acutoconica***, 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13544), 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13647).
- Hygrocybe ceracea***, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF13017), 12 Oct 2023, leg. F. Fuljer (PHFF12857), 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13553), 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer (PHFF13640, PHFF13654).
- Hygrocybe citrinovirens***, 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13554).
- Hygrocybe coccinea***, 12 Oct 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF12847), 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13650).
- Hygrocybe conica***, 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13558), 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13653).
- Hygrocybe constrictospora***, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF13012), 14 Oct 2023, leg. M. Zajac (PHFF12768), 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13638, PHFF13646, PHFF13649).
- Hygrocybe garajonayensis***, 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13551), 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer (PHFF13652).
- Hygrocybe glutinipes***, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF13023).
- Hygrocybe helobia***, 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13552).
- Hygrocybe chlorophana***, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF13015), 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13561).
- Hygrocybe insipida***, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF13014), 12 Oct 2023, leg. F. Fuljer (PHFF12854, PHFF12856), 14 Oct 2023, leg. M. Zajac (PHFF12767), 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13560).

- Hygrocybe lepida*, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF13020, PHFF13022), 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13545, PHFF13556).
- Hygrocybe miniata*, 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13547), 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13655).
- Hygrocybe mucronella*, 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13648).
- Hygrocybe phaeococcinea*, 12 Oct 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF12845), 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13555), 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer (PHFF13643).
- Hygrocybe punicea*, 12 Oct 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF12853), 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13642).
- Hygrocybe reidii*, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF13025), 12 Oct 2023, leg. F. Fuljer (PHFF12850), 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13546).
- Hygrocybe subpapillata*, 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13548).
- Hygrocybe turunda*, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF13019), 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13536, PHFF13562).
- Microglossum rufescens*, 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (SAV F-12221).
- Neohygrocybe ingrata*, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF13011), 14 Oct 2023, leg. M. Zajac (PHFF12771), 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13557, PHFF13592).
- Neohygrocybe nitrata*, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF13024).
- Neohygrocybe ovina*, 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF13535, PHFF13537, PHFF13540).
- Pseudotracheloma metapodium*, 29 Sep 2023, leg. F. Fuljer & M. Zajac (PHFF4087), 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF4557, PHFF4562).
- Ramariopsis kunzei*, 12 Oct 2023, leg. M. Zajac & A. Barát (PHFF3787).
- Thuemenidium atropurpureum*, 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF4555), 8 Oct 2024, leg. V. Kučera & F. Fuljer (SAV F-12218).
- Tremellodendropsis tuberosa*, 23 Sep 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF4554), 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (PHFF4789).
- Trichoglossum hirsutum*, 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (SAV F-12219).
- Trichoglossum octopartitum*, 8 Oct 2024, leg. F. Fuljer & V. Kučera (SAV F-12220).

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Localities of *Microglossum pratense* in the Kysucká vrchovina Mts, Javorníky Mts, and adjacent areas of the Moravsko-slezské Beskydy Mts occur on mesophilous grasslands belonging to the *Arrhenatherion elatioris* alliance, which are subject to regular mowing using mechanised equipment. In contrast, the locality in the Turzovská vrchovina Mts, although representing the same phytosociological unit, has remained unmanaged for several years and is now undergoing successional encroachment by shrubs. Additional occurrences in the Biele Karpaty Mts and Revúcka vrchovina Mts are situated in relatively young mixed forest stands, probably originating from previously open grasslands (Historická ortofotomapa SR, <https://mapy.tuzvo.sk/hofm/>). These observations suggest that *M. pratense* exhibits a relatively broad ecological amplitude, showing no strict preference for a particular vegetation type or management regime. The species can persist in actively managed, grazed, or even long-abandoned grasslands, as well as in secondary forest habitats. At all Slovak grassland localities where this

species occurs, the plant species composition consistently reflects a low trophic status, particularly in relation to nitrogen availability. This indicates minimal historical impact from eutrophication processes such as fertilisation.

In terms of edaphic preferences, all recorded sites are situated on acidic geological substrates (e.g. quartzites, sandstones, and granitoids) of flysch, which contrasts with those of closely related species such as *M. truncatum* and *M. parvisporum*, typically associated with calcareous (alkaline) bedrock (Kučera et al. 2017).

The Čierny Balog locality is among the richest sites of grassland fungi in Slovakia, capable of maintaining a high species diversity even during dry autumn seasons. It is characterised by the presence of rare and endangered taxa, including *Clavaria zollingeri*, *Microglossum rufescens*, *Pseudotricholoma metapodium*, *Tremellodendropsis tuberosa*, and various *Hygrocybe* s.l. species. We hypothesise that occasional cattle grazing at the site plays a crucial role in the occurrence of grassland fungi. Furthermore, the presence of a nearby ski resort does not appear to have any negative impact on the ecological integrity of the locality.

Our collection of *M. pratense* exhibits morphological and genetic consistency with the previously studied specimens. The measurements taken from the current specimen show slightly lower values than those in the original description (Kučera et al. 2017) but still fall within the range of presumed intraspecific variability. Given the fact that this species was described only recently, each additional record significantly contributes to understanding its variability and ecological preferences.

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