

Morphology, Phylogeny and Culture Characteristics of *Ganoderma gibbosum* Collected from Kunming, Yunnan Province, China

Thatsanee Luangharn^{1,2,3,4}, Samantha C. Karunarathna^{1,3}, Peter E. Mortimer^{1,4,*},
Kevin D. Hyde^{3,5} and Jianchu Xu^{1,3,4,*}

¹Key Laboratory for Plant Diversity and Biogeography of East Asia, Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Kunming, 650201, China

²University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, 100049, China

³East and Central Asia Regional Office, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Kunming, 650201, China

⁴Centre for Mountain Futures, Kunming Institute of Botany, Kunming, 650201, China

⁵Center of Excellence in Fungal Research, Mae Fah Luang University, Chiang Rai, 57100, Thailand

*Corresponding Authors: Peter E. Mortimer. Email: peter@mail.kib.ac.cn; Jianchu Xu. Email: jxu@mail.kib.ac.cn

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Abstract: *Ganoderma* is a genus of medicinally and economically important mushrooms in the family Ganodermataceae. *Ganoderma* species are popular medicinal mushrooms and their health benefits are well-documented. *Ganoderma* is a cosmopolitan genus that is widely distributed in both tropical and temperate regions. This genus is characterized by its unique laccate or non-laccate species with double-walled basidiospores. Here, we report on eight collections of *G. gibbosum* collected during surveys in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China. The specimens are described and illustrated based on macro- and micro-morphological characteristics. Total DNA of the eight *G. gibbosum* strains were extracted using the Biospin Fungal Extraction Kit following manufacturer protocol. Amplification of the Internal Transcribed Spacer (nrITS) region was carried out using ITS5/ITS4 primers and LROR/LR5 for the nuclear ribosomal large subunit 28S rDNA gene (LSU). Phylogenetic analysis with closely related species to *G. gibbosum* showed that all eight collections grouped with *G. gibbosum* with 100% bootstrap support. Phylogenetic similarity and morphological variations within the eight collections of *G. gibbosum* are discussed.

Keywords: Chinese medicine; medicinal mushroom; morphology; phylogeny

1 Introduction

Ganoderma P. Karst. was typified by Karsten in 1881 [1], with *Ganoderma lucidum* (Curtis) P. Karst as the type species [1,2]. This fungus was introduced by Curtis in 1781 [3] based on material from England [4]. Recently, the name of *G. lingzhi* (Lingzhi) has begun to be used instead of *G. lucidum* for those native to East Asia, and the true *G. lucidum* has been determined to be native to Europe [5]. The various species of *Ganoderma* are widely distributed in both tropical and temperate areas [6]. They grow saprophytically or parasitically and form a widespread group of white rot fungi on a wide variety of trees, fulfilling a vital ecological function as wood decomposers [7,8]. *Ganoderma* fungi are able to form conspicuous laccate



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or non-laccate basidiocarps, bracket-like sporocarps with double walled basidiospores [9,10], while *G. gibbosum* forms non-laccate basidiocarps. *Ganoderma* has a long history of use in traditional medicine in East Asia. *Ganoderma* fungi are used to treat and remedy a wide range of pathological diseases [11,12]. *Ganoderma* are also used as ingredients in cosmetics [13], and are unique for their pharmaceutical properties and nutritional value [14,15].

Ganoderma species are genetically heterogeneous, and a wide range of genetic variation has resulted from outcrossing over multiple generations and between different geographical origins [16]. Different *Ganoderma* taxonomic characteristics have been identified by various authors [17,18,19], and fungal identifications were later carried out according to taxonomic keys [20]. Index Fungorum listed 455 *Ganoderma* records (<http://www.indexfungorum.org>; accessed date: 10 January, 2020) and 400 records of taxa in MycoBank (<http://www.mycobank.org>; accessed date: 10 January, 2020), while 80 species have been reported as synonyms [21].

Ganoderma species are found worldwide, displaying significant variation in the morphological features of each species. Specimens of *Ganoderma* have been recorded across Africa [22,23], Australia [9,24], Europe [25,26], North America [27], South Africa [28], and Asia [18,19], including China [29]. *Ganoderma gibbosum* is not the only fungal species shown to be different from any known taxon within China. *Ganoderma hainanense* [30], *G. japonicum* [31], *G. leucocontextum* [32], *G. lucidum* [33], and *G. mutabile* [6] have also been proposed.

Southwest China contains some of the highest concentrations of fungal biodiversity in the world, and Yunnan Province in particular has the varied topography, environmental conditions, and variety of habitats for a diverse range of fungi. An estimated 853 macrofungi species belonging to 172 genera worldwide in Yunnan [34], and different taxa within the genus *Ganoderma* have been discovered [35]. Although there have been numerous collections of *Ganoderma* specimens from Yunnan Province, including *G. lucidum* [36], *G. tropicum* [33], *G. lingzhi* [32,36], and *G. applanatum* [8], there have been no reports detailing the macro–micro morphological characteristics of *G. gibbosum* from Yunnan to date. Previous Chinese specimens of *G. gibbosum* were collected in Guizhou, Hainan, and Jiangxi provinces [37]. Furthermore, past studies of *G. gibbosum* have focused on the phylogenetic features of this species and have not provided detail on macro- and micro-morphological data [8,9]. Thus, we aim to provide a more conclusive description of cosmopolitan *G. gibbosum* by analyzing various specimens from Yunnan Province, providing detailed macro- and micro-morphological descriptions along with phylogenetic analyses.

2 Materials and Methods

2.1 Sample Collection and Isolation of Mycelial Cultures

Eight specimens of *G. gibbosum* were collected from Yunnan Province, China from August to December in 2016 and 2017. Documentation based on macro-morphological characteristics such as color, host, fruiting growing stages (young, mature, and old), and perennial strains were noted in the field. The specimens were hot air dried at 40°C for 48 hours until they were completely dehydrated, and then were kept in ziplock plastic bags containing dehydrated silica gel as a desiccant to control humidity. All dried herbarium specimens were described based on macro–micro morphological characteristics.

Pure cultures of all *G. gibbosum* were isolated under aseptic conditions (Stamets 2000) by transferring sections of internal tissues from basidiocarps onto potato dextrose agar (PDA), and incubated at 30°C for 10 days [38]. After the agar surface was fully covered with the fungal mycelium, the stock pure culture was deposited in the culture collection of the Kunming Institute of Botany culture collection (KUMCC). The cultures were maintained at 4°C for further study.

2.2 Macro–Micro Morphological Examination

Macro-morphological characteristics were described based on fresh material which was photographed in the field prior to collection. Morphological descriptions mainly followed the methods described previously by Lodge et al. [39], while colors were recorded following Ridgeway [40]. Macroscopic characteristics were determined according to the methodology described by Largent [41]. Microscopic characteristics were observed using free-hand sections; basidiospores were rehydrated and observed by mounting in a solution of 3%–5% potassium hydroxide (KOH), a drop of 1%–3% Congo red, and 3%–5% Melzer's reagent for highlighting all tissues [42]. Microphotography was carried out with magnification of up to 100x using a Nikon ECLIPSE Ni (Nikon, Tokyo, Japan) compound microscope, and specimens were photographed with a Canon EOS 600D (Tokyo, Japan) digital camera fitted to the microscope. Measurements were taken using the Tarosoft® Image Framework program v.0.9.0.7. Measurement of the size and shape of basidiospores followed $[Q = L/W]$, indicating Q variation in quotient of spore length and width of individual spores; L = mean length; W = mean width was calculated considering the mean value of the lengths and widths, with a minimum of 50 basidiospores from each basidioma [43]. Fungal identification was performed according to taxonomic keys [20].

2.3 DNA Extraction, PCR Amplification, and DNA Sequencing

DNA was extracted from the internal tissue of dried specimens using a Biospin Fungus Genomic DNA Extraction Kit (BioFlux®). The internal transcribed spacer (ITS) regions of nuclear rDNA were amplified by a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) with primers ITS5 and ITS4; primer pairs of LROR/LR5 were used to amplify the partial sequence of the large subunit (LSU). For PCR amplification, the 25 µl PCR reaction mixture contained 12.5 µl of 10 mM 2Mix, 10 µM ITS5 1 µl, 10 µM ITS4 1 µl, 40–50 ng/µl DNA 1 µl, and 9.5 µl of sterile ddH₂O. The PCR thermal cycles profile used the following modifications: 94°C for 5 min for the initial denaturation step, followed by 35 cycles of 94°C for 30 sec, a step of 55°C for 30 sec, and a final extension step of 70°C for 10 min. The purified PCR products were directly sequenced. ITS5/ITS4 and LROR/LR5 were used to sequence both strands of the DNA molecules [44]. The sequencing of PCR products was carried out by Sangon Biotech Co., Shanghai, China. The nuclear ribosomal Internal Transcribed Spacer region (nrITS) and nuclear ribosomal large subunit (nrLSU) of the mushroom were amplified and the sequence was deposited in GenBank to obtain the accession number. The Faces of Fungi database number was obtained as detailed in Jayasiri et al. [45].

2.4 Phylogenetic Analyses

Sequences were obtained from GenBank with our eight *G. gibbosum* sequences were used for the analyses (Tab. 1). Sequences were aligned and manually adjusted in Bioedit v. 7.0.9 [46] and Clustal X [47]. Sequences of *Amauroderma calcitum* (FLOR:50931) were used as outgroup taxa in the phylogenetic analyses. Gaps were set as missing data. A phylogenetic tree was performed by using PAUP* 4.0b10 [48]. Clade results from parsimony analyses were assessed by Maximum parsimony analyses (MP) performed with PAUP v. 4.0b10 [48]. Maximum likelihood analyses (ML) was performed with the CIPRES web portal [49] and using RAxML-HPC2 on XSEDE (v. 8.2.8) [50], including 1,000 bootstrap replicates random sequence additions. The best fitting substitution model was determined in MrModeltest 2.3 [51], for Bayesian inference posterior probabilities (PP). The Bayesian inference posterior probabilities (PP) distribution [52] was estimated by Markov Chain Monte Carlo sampling (MCMC) in MrBayes v. 3.2.2 [53]. Six simultaneous Markov chains were run for 1,000,000 generations and trees were sampled every 100 generations, thus 10,000 trees were obtained. Burn-in phases were determined by traces analysis in Tracer version 1.6 [54]. Based on the tracer analysis, the first 2,000 trees representing 20% of burn-in phase of the analyses were discarded, while the remaining 8,000 trees were used for calculating posterior probabilities (PP) in the majority rule consensus tree [55].

Table 1: Taxa information used in nuc-ITS and nuc-LSU rDNA analysis with their voucher, GenBank accession numbers and locality used in this study

| Fungal species | Voucher | GenBank accession no. | | Locality |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------|---------------|
| | | ITS | LSU | |
| <i>Ganoderma applanatum</i> | Wei 5787a | KF495001 | KF495011 | China |
| <i>G. applanatum</i> | Dai 8924 | KU219987 | KU220014 | China |
| <i>G. applanatum</i> | SFC20141001-24 | KY364255 | – | Korea |
| <i>G. applanatum</i> | SFC20141001-25 | KY364256 | – | Korea |
| <i>G. applanatum</i> | SFC20141012-02 | KY364257 | – | Korea |
| <i>G. australe</i> | HUEFS:DHCR417 | MF436676 | MF436673 | Brazil |
| <i>G. australe</i> | HUEFS:DHCR411 | MF436675 | MF436672 | Brazil |
| <i>G. australe</i> | CTRA1 | KU569531 | KU570929 | Brazil |
| <i>G. australe</i> | CTRA2 | KU569532 | KU570930 | South America |
| <i>G. australe</i> | CTRA3 | KU569533 | KU570931 | South America |
| <i>G. australe</i> | CTRA4 | KU569534 | KU570932 | South America |
| <i>G. australe</i> | CTRA12 | KU569541 | KU570940 | South America |
| <i>G. australe</i> | CTRA11 | KU569540 | KU570939 | South America |
| <i>G. australe</i> | CTRA10 | KU569539 | KU570938 | South America |
| <i>G. adspersum</i> | FGA1 | AM269771 | AM269829 | Italy |
| <i>G. adspersum</i> | SFC20150918-07 | KY364248 | – | Korea |
| <i>G. adspersum</i> | SFC20141001-16 | KY364251 | – | Korea |
| <i>G. adspersum</i> | SFC20140701-31 | KY364253 | – | Korea |
| <i>G. adspersum</i> | SFC20160115-20 | KY364254 | – | Korea |
| <i>G. austroafricanum</i> | CMW41454 | KM507324 | KM507325 | South America |
| <i>G. chalceum</i> | URM80457 | JX310812 | JX310826 | Brazil |
| <i>G. destructans</i> | CBS 139793 | NR132919 | NG058157 | South Africa |
| <i>G. destructans</i> | CMW43670 | KR183856 | KR183860 | South Africa |
| <i>G. destructans</i> | CMW43671 | KR183857 | KR183861 | South Africa |
| <i>G. destructans</i> | CMW43672 | KR183858 | KR183862 | South Africa |
| <i>G. enigmaticum</i> | CBS 139792 | NR_132918 | NG_058156 | South Africa |
| <i>G. enigmaticum</i> | Ghana2/938397 | KR014265 | KR014266 | Ghana |
| <i>G. enigmaticum</i> | Ghana1a/938398 | KR150678 | KR150679 | South America |
| <i>G. enigmaticum</i> | CMW43669 | KR183855 | KR183859 | South America |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | UB2 | KU569557 | KU570955 | South America |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | SPC2 | KU569547 | KU570946 | South America |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | SPC6 | KU569550 | KU570948 | South America |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | SPC7 | KU569551 | KU570949 | South America |

Table 1 (continued).

| Fungal species | Voucher | GenBank accession no. | | Locality |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------|----------------|
| | | ITS | LSU | |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | IBT3 | KU569543 | KU570942 | South America |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | CTRA6 | KU569535 | KU570934 | South America |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | CTRA8 | KU569537 | KU570936 | South America |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | CC23 | KU569529 | KU570927 | South America |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | AS5.624 type3 | AY593856 | – | China |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | AS5.624 type4 | AY593857 | – | China |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | SFC20150630-23 | AY593858 | – | Korea |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | SFC20150812-36 | AY593859 | – | Korea |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | SFC20150918-08 | AY593860 | – | Korea |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | SFC20140702-12 | AY593861 | – | Korea |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | KUMCC 17-0003 | MH035681 | MH553157 | Kunming, China |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | KUMCC 17-0005 | MH035682 | MH553158 | Kunming, China |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | KUMCC 17-0008 | MH035683 | MH553159 | Kunming, China |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | KUMCC 17-0009 | MH035684 | MH553160 | Kunming, China |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | KUMCC 17-0010 | MH035685 | MH553161 | Kunming, China |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | KUMCC 17-0013 | MH035686 | MH553162 | Kunming, China |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | KUMCC 17-0014 | MH035687 | MH553163 | Kunming, China |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> | KUMCC 18-0007 | MH035688 | MH553164 | Kunming, China |
| <i>G. lucidum</i> | IUM00298 | – | DQ208410 | Korea |
| <i>G. lucidum</i> | IUM01122 | – | DQ208411 | Korea |
| <i>G. lucidum</i> | C-1 | – | DQ208412 | Korea |
| <i>G. multiplicatum</i> | URM 83346 | JX310823 | JX310837 | Brazil |
| <i>G. multiplicatum</i> | CWN 04670 | KJ143913 | – | Taiwan |
| <i>G. orbiforme</i> | URM 83332 | JX310813 | JX310827 | Brazil |
| <i>G. orbiforme</i> | URM 83334 | JX310814 | JX310828 | Brazil |
| <i>G. orbiforme</i> | URM 83335 | JX310815 | JX310829 | Brazil |
| <i>G. parvulum</i> | URM 83339 | JX310817 | JX310831 | Brazil |
| <i>G. parvulum</i> | URM 83340 | JX310818 | JX310832 | Brazil |
| <i>G. resinaceum</i> | URM 83400 | JX310824 | JX310838 | Brazil |
| <i>Amauroderma calcitum</i> | FLOR:50931 | KR816528 | KU315207 | Brazil |

The phylogenetic trees were printed with FigTree v. 1.4.0 [56], edited using Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2010 and exported to Adobe Illustrator CS v.3. The phylogram of Maximum likelihood and Maximum parsimony bootstrap values equal to or greater than 70%, with Bayesian Posterior Probabilities (PP) equal or greater than 0.95, are shown above the branches presented in Fig. 1. The sequences generated in this study were submitted to GenBank (Tab. 1).

3 Results

3.1 Phylogenetic Analyses

The final partial sequences of the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) and of large subunit (LSU) alignment were used to resolve the phylogenetic placement of *G. gibbosum* (Fig. 1). The alignment dataset is comprised of 62 ingroup taxa, which represent 13 *Ganoderma* species with 1 outgroup taxa (*Amauroderma calcitum* FLOR:50931). The maximum parsimony dataset consists of 1,506 characters, of which 1,302 were constant, 145 variable characters parsimony-informative, and 59 characters parsimony-uninformative. The phylogenetic analysis showed that our eight *Ganoderma* grouped in Asia *G. gibbosum* clade, with 73% ML and 70% MP bootstrap support.

3.2 Basidiocarp Morphology and Isolation for Mycelial Cultures

3.2.1 Macro-Morphological Characteristic Description

High variation of *G. gibbosum* was mostly observed on macro-morphological characteristics, those of eight samples were typical basidiocarps in annual (Figs. 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b, and 8a, 8b) and some was perennial; pileus was 4–24 cm with applanate to applanate with umbonate pileus; stipe varied from sessile by usually distinctly the attached base (Figs. 3a, 3b–8b, and 10a) to short stipe attached nearly to central pileus (Fig. 9a); pileus surface was smooth when young (Figs. 6a, 6b), with some radial furrows, and cracked when older (Fig. 9a), and some was thickness of several layers (Figs. 7a, 7b), consistency is tough and hard when mature; pore usually pale orange (5A3), leathery when broken, and light in weight on drying.

3.2.2 Micro-Morphology Characteristic Description

Microscopic structures of eight *G. gibbosum* are shown in Figs. 3–10. The dimensions of basidiospores, hyphae, pore, and tube layers of eight *G. gibbosum* collections are shown in Tab. 2, and their basidiospore characteristics are presented in Tab. 3. Microscopically, basidiospores were characterized by being broadly ellipsoid and oblong ellipsoid, with some subglobose to globose distinctly tapering at the distal end, truncated, with double wall (ganodermoid), thick-walled inner endosporium; $4-8 \times 6-12 \mu\text{m}$, reddish brown; Context some distinctive of hymenial with sword-like apices hyphae (Figs. 3q, 3r, 4q, 4r, 5d–5g) and dendroid of the Bovista-type (Figs. 4s, 8p–8r, 9l–9m, 9r, and 10p), brown (6E8) to dark brown (8F4–5). Hyphal system hyaline, thin to thick walled with septa hyphae, composed of generative hyphae, skeletal hyphae and tri-dimitic hyphal with clamps connections.

3.3 Characteristics of Mycelial Cultures

Eight *G. gibbosum* produced white mycelium on PDA medium after incubation for 3–4 days. The fungal culture was fully colonized after an incubation period of 9–12 days, and a range of colors was present after an incubation period of 16–20 days. All cultures were photographed during each different incubation period. For instance, *G. gibbosum* KUMCC17-0003 was isolated from internal tissue and incubated for 7 days, and it showed white (5A1) with radius light yellow (4A4) zone from colony center, and its active mycelium (margin) thinner than the center (Figs. 2a, 2b); *G. gibbosum* KUMCC17-0005 was incubated for 24 days, and it produced velvety mycelial and smooth surface (Fig. 2c) with light yellow (4A4) when observed under the culture petri dish (Fig. 2d); *G. gibbosum* KUMCC17-0008 could observed white scattered cotton mycelium (Fig. 2e) and slightly produce pale orange (5A3) to brown (6D8) at center to the margin (Fig. 2f) after incubated for 16 days; *G. gibbosum* KUMCC17-0009 was photograph when incubation for 28 days, it could observed white radial furrows on agar surface (Fig. 2g), while under petri dish occurred light yellow (4A4) with brown (6D8) at the center of culture colony (Fig. 2h). *Ganoderma gibbosum* KUMCC17-0010 is also produced white with few cottony mycelium after incubated for 16 days, it slightly circles furrows (Fig. 2i), brown (6D8) to pale orange (5A3) at the center to the margin after incubated for 24 days (Fig. 2j). *Ganoderma gibbosum* KUMCC17-0013 produced white to brownish

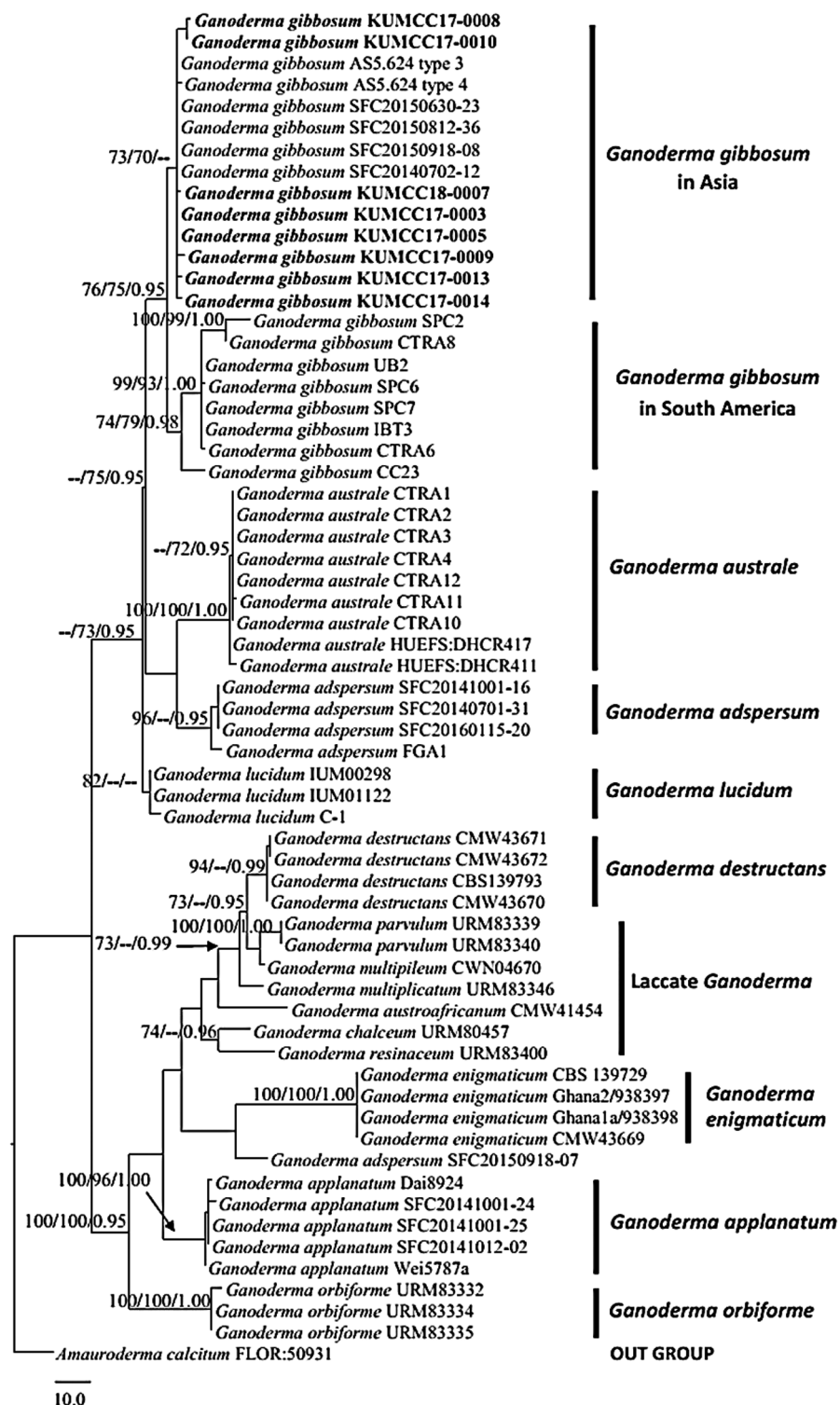


Figure 1: Phylogenetic tree showing the phylogenetic position of *G. gibbosum* specimens collected in Yunnan Province, China in comparison with available LSU and ITS rDNA sequence data of *Ganoderma* in GenBank. Bootstrap support values for maximum likelihood (ML) and maximum parsimony (MP) greater than 70% and Bayesian posterior probabilities greater than 0.95 are indicated above the nodes as MLBS/MPBS/PP. The data was analyzed with random addition sequence and unweighted parsimony, and gaps were treated as missing data. The tree is rooted with *Amauroderma calcitum* FLOR:50931. *Ganoderma gibbosum* collected in this study are indicated in black bold

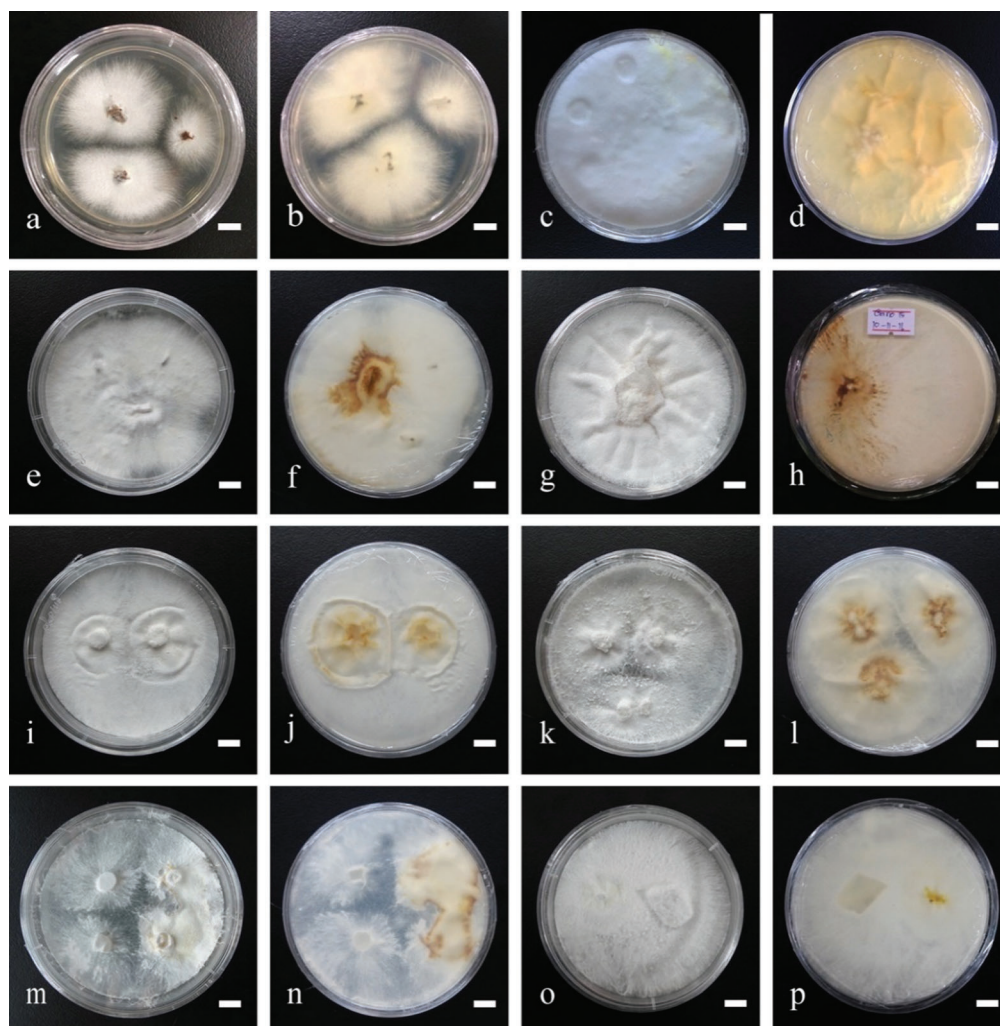


Figure 2: Morphology of *Ganoderma gibbosum* cultures which were incubated at 25°C for 7–28 days on Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA). a–b) strain KUMCC 17-0003, c–d) KUMCC 17-0005, e–f) strain KUMCC 17-0008, g–h) strain KUMCC 17-0009, i–j) strain KUMCC 17-0010, k–l) strain KUMCC 17-0013, m–n) strain KUMCC 17-0014, o–p) strain KUMCC 18-0017. Scale bars: a–p = 1 cm

yellow (5C7-5C8), tightly scattered cottony on agar surface after incubation for 21 days (Figs. 2k, 2l), while white soft mycelium and some tight velvety light yellow (4A5) has occurred at the center of strain KUMCC17-0014 after incubated for 14 days (Figs. 2m, 2n), and white with few cottony mycelia is also could be observed in *G. gibbosum* KUMCC18-0017 after incubated for 14 days (Figs. 2o, 2p), it changes to yellowish white (4A2) mycelial after incubated for 18 days and slightly unshaped furrows on agar surface after incubated for 22 days (data not show). Those of eight strains, which of 5 strains including; strain KUMCC17-0008, KUMCC17-0009, KUMCC17-0010, KUMCC17-0013, and KUMCC18-0007 were distinctive brittle when plugged, while the culture strain KUMCC17-0005 was sticky.

3.4 Taxonomy Study

Basidiocarps; annual or perennial, with non-laccate, 2–15 cm wide, 4–24 cm long, 1–6.5 cm thick. *Pileus* orbicular to subflabellate or subdimidiate. *Pileus shape* convex, umbonate to uneven or ungulate,

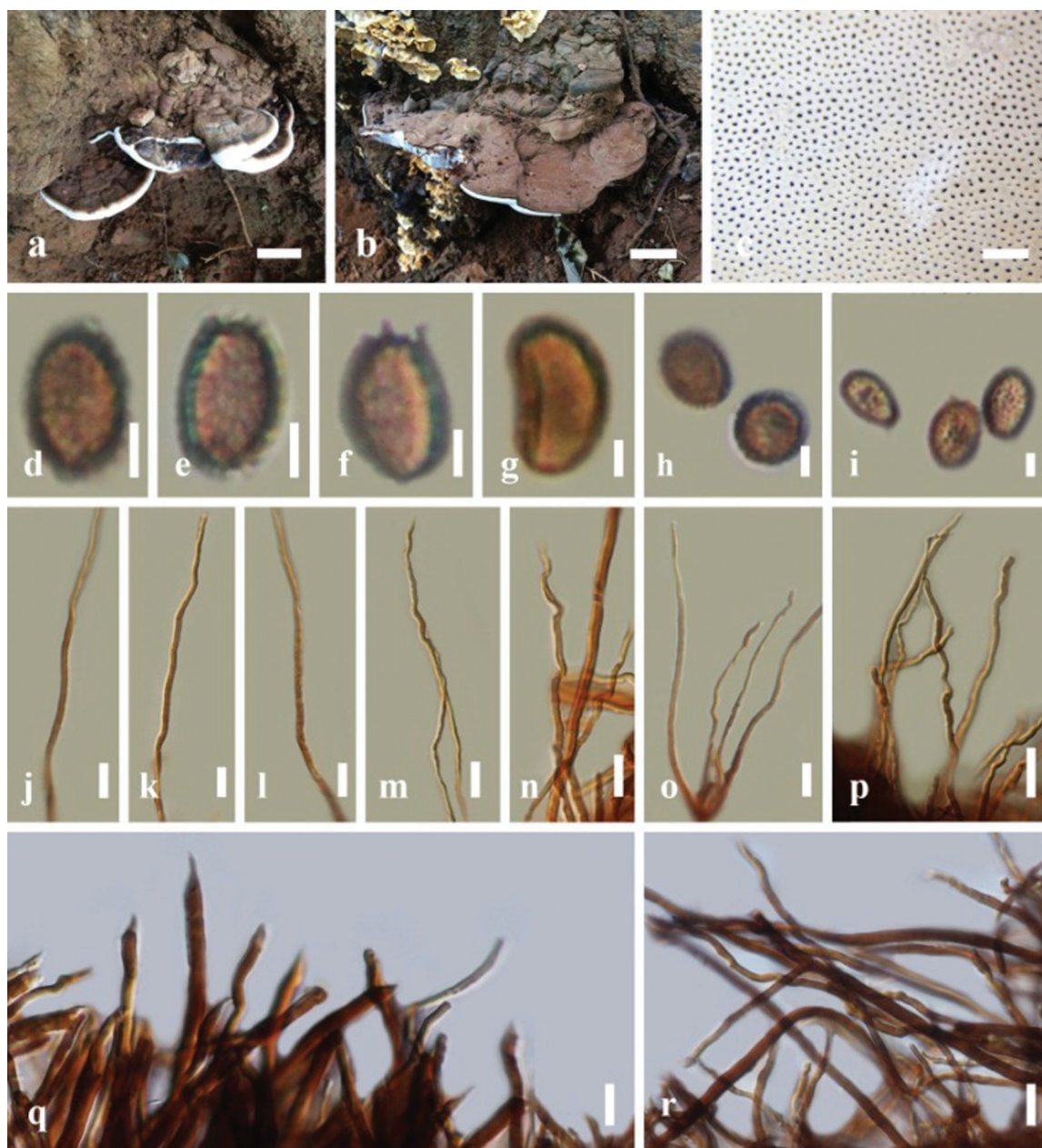


Figure 3: *Ganoderma gibbosum* strain KUMCC17-0003. a) young basidiocarp morphology characteristics, b) mature basidiocarp morphology, c) pore characteristic, d–i) basidiospore in Congo red, j–m) generative hyphae of context in KOH, n) skeletal hyphae of context in KOH, o–p) hyphae and clamp connections of context in KOH, q–r) hyphae of tubes in KOH. Scale bars: a–b) = 2 cm, c) = 1000 μm , d–i) = 3 μm , j–p) = 20 μm , q–r) = 10 μm

some was round and plump when young (Figs. 6a, 6b), somewhat imbricate or overlapping shelves (Figs. 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 8a, 8b), with broadly attached, imbricate, when seen from above flabelliform (fan shape), although can be thicker and mostly thicker at base slightly soft at margin when mature, and some cracked crust when old. *Pileus surface* smooth, soft, usually silky and slippery when young, woody when mature to older, most of the mature specimens are furrowed on the surface with sulcate, tuberculate to undulating, somewhat

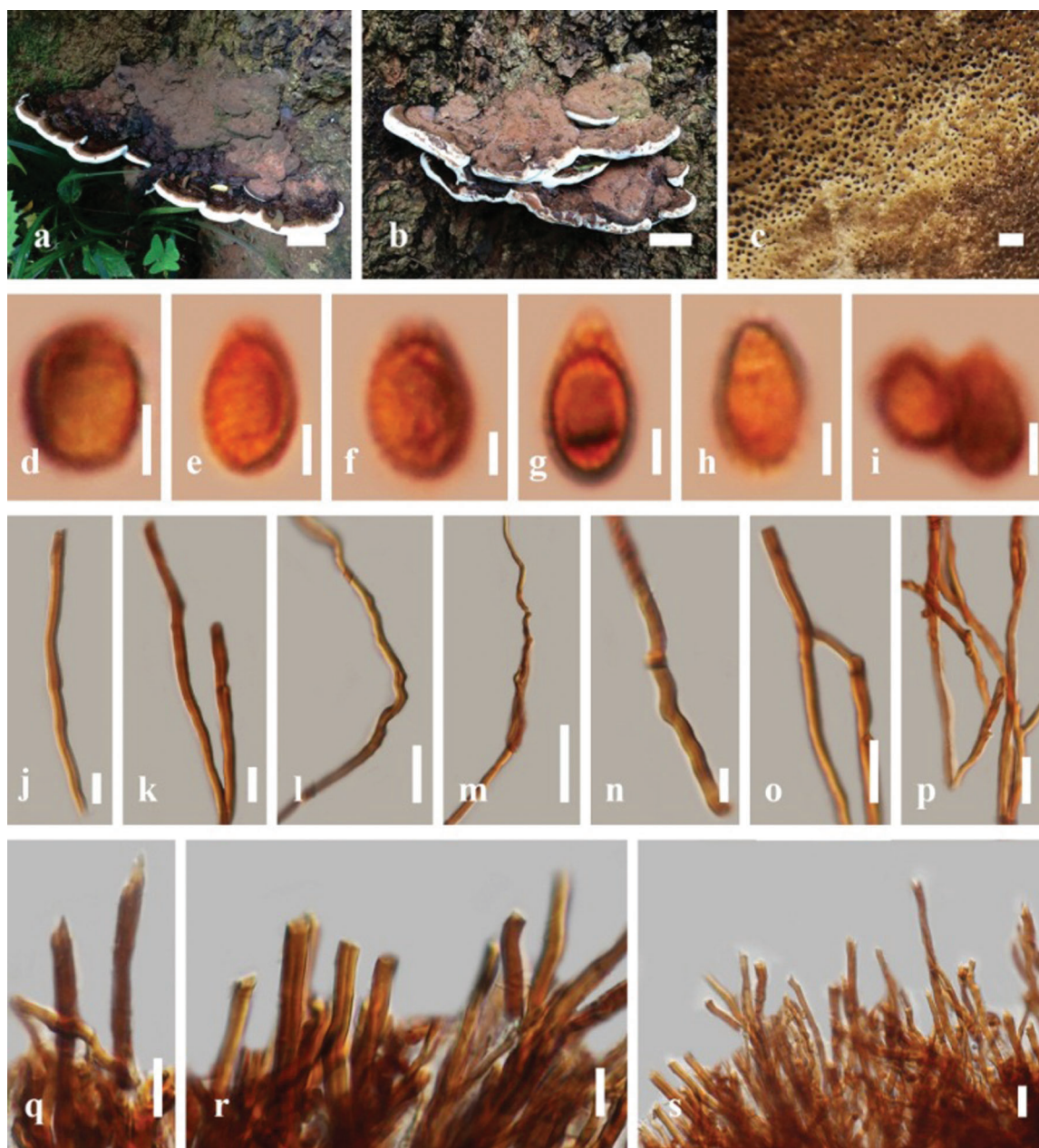


Figure 4: *Ganoderma gibbosum* strain KUMCC17-0005. a) perennial basidiocarp morphology characteristics, b) mature basidiocarp morphology, c) pore characteristic, d–i) basidiospore in Congo red, j–l) skeletal hyphae of context in KOH, m–p) hyphae and clamp connections of context in KOH, q–s) hyphae of tubes in Melzer's reagent. Scale bars: a) = 3 cm, b) = 2 cm, c) = 1000 μ m, d–i) = 3 μ m, j–p) = 20 μ m, q–s) = 10 μ m

spathulate to uneven, incised, compact and hard, covered with a crust, non-shiny texture (dull), slightly dull and faded when mature to old, and lined or cracked crust when older, the thickness of pileus appeared as a thin layer (less than 0.5 cm) and several layers (upper than 3.5 cm). *Pileus color* greyish (1C3) at base and slightly yellow grey (3B2), and pale yellow (1A5) to pale orange (6A3) at center, and white (6A1) at margin in young basidiocarps, and usually the color changes to reddish brown (8E6) upon touch, when young. Dark

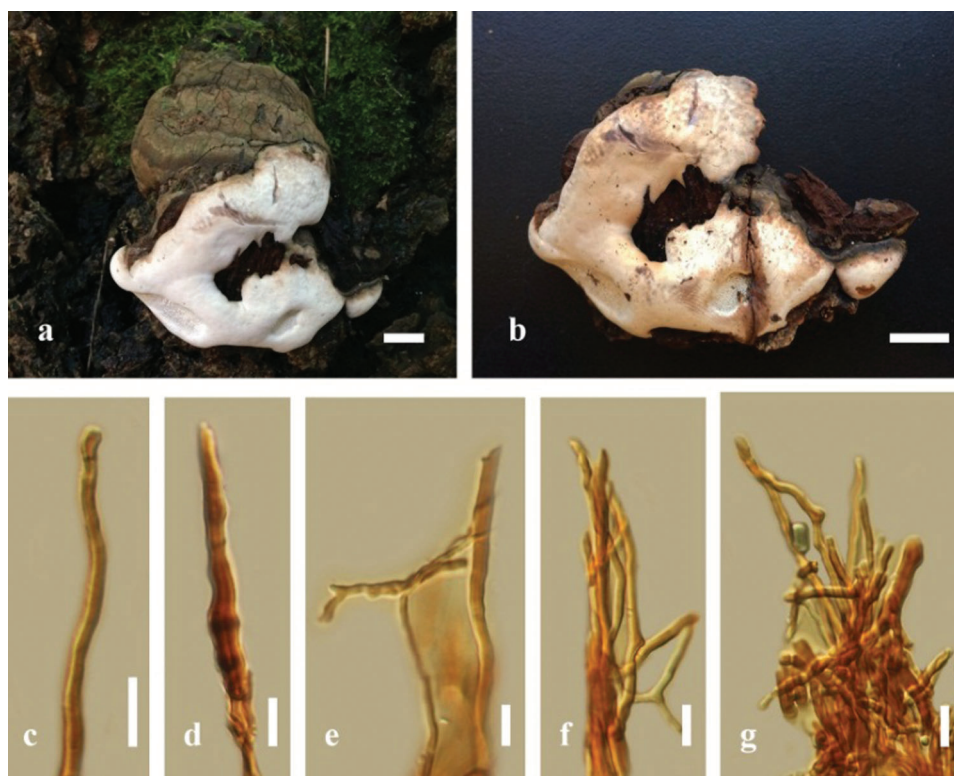


Figure 5: *Ganoderma gibbosum* strain KUMCC17-0008. a–b) basidiocarp morphology characteristics, c) generative hyphae of context in KOH, d) skeletal hyphae of context in KOH, e) hyphal and clamp connections of context in KOH, f) binding hyphae and clamp connections of context in KOH, g) trimitic hyphal system of context in KOH. Scale bars: a–b) = 1 cm, c–g) = 10 μ m

brown (6F7), brownish orange (6C5), or greyish orange (6B3) towards the center of maturity basidiocarps; often greyish brown (11D4) to violet brown (11F8) close to pileus margin when young, and become dull red (11C3), reddish brown (8F6), greyish red (8C4), and greyish orange (5B3) when old. *Pore* angular, 4–7 per mm in fresh. *Tube layer* 0.2–1.8 cm long, wall thick 40–230 μ m when dried (Figs. 3c, 4c, 7c, 8c, and 10b) and non-presented when young. *Pore color* white (11A1) to pale orange (5A3), fertile undersurface when mature, immediate color change to dark brown (6F8) or reddish brown (8D8) when cut, scratched or bruised, and discolored when touched, with a slippery surface when fresh (Fig. 9b).

Basidiospores ellipsoid to broadly ellipsoid, sub-globose to globose, and some oblong-ellipsoid, (5.1–) 5.3–7.0 (–7.2) \times (8.0–) 7.9–10.8 (–11.0), overlaid by hyaline, inner wall echinulate brown, light brown (6D4) to brown (6E8) in 5% KOH. *Context* up to 2.5 cm thick, brown (6E7) to dark brown (6F8), mostly dark brown near the tube layers; Bovista-type ligative hyphae, hymenial with sword-like apices in the context; *hyphal system* hyaline, thin to thick walled with simple septa, composed of narrow and sparingly branched, thin wall of generative hyphae with hyaline, skeletal hyphae thicker wall 2.2–7.9 μ m wide, binding hyphal, and tri-dimitic hyphal, with clamps connections. *Basidia* not seen.

Margin wavy, blunt edged, and slippery, thinner than the base and softer than the center, often white (8A1) to orange white (6A2) when young, violet brown (11F8) and brownish red (10F6) when mature. *Stipe* almost sessile (without stipe) with broadly attached or short stipe when present or centrally stipitate, attachment of stipe to pileus varied from lateral to nearly central (Fig. 9a), and mostly found on trunks of many broad-leaved trees. *Habitat* solitary on dead trunks, or decaying stumps, and occasionally occurring



Figure 6: *Ganoderma gibbosum* strain KUMCC17-0009. a–b) young basidiocarp morphology characteristics, c–d) generative hyphae of context in KOH, e–f) skeletal hyphae of context in KOH, g–h) hyphae and clamp connections of context in KOH. Scale bars: a–b) = 1 cm, c–h) = 20 μ m

on standing trees of *Albizia mollis* (Wall.) Boiv., *Machilus yunnanensis* Lecomte., and *Neocinnamomum delavayi* (Lec.) H. Liou.

Specimens examined China, Yunnan Province, Kunming Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 25°07'58"N, 102°44'39"E, on August to December, 2016–2017.

4 Discussion

This study is the first comprehensive report of the morphological characteristics and molecular analyses within the species of *G. gibbosum* collected from Yunnan Province, China. Phylogenetic analyses, based on LSU and ITS, showed 10 clades of *Ganoderma*, of which two clades belong to *G. gibbosum*. One is the Asian *G. gibbosum* clade, and the other is *G. gibbosum* from South America; both clades coincide with their geographic distributions. Our *G. gibbosum* collections formed a clade with Asia *G. gibbosum* collections originating from China and Korea, with 73% ML and 70% MP statistical supports; however, in a previous phylogenetic analysis Korean *Ganoderma* was identified as *Ganoderma* cf. *gibbosum* [57]. *Ganoderma gibbosum* collections from South America formed a sister clade to our collections, with 74% ML, 79% MP and 0.98 PP statistical supports, and both *G. gibbosum* clades of Asia and South America are clustered together with 76% ML, 75% MP, and 0.95 PP statistical supports.

Ganoderma gibbosum was first described in Australia [58]. It was considered to be a subspecies of *G. applanatum* [59], while *G. applanatum* was the earlier name of *G. australe* [59,60]. *Ganoderma australe* and *G. gibbosum* were renamed *G. incrassatum* based on their monophyletic origin [24], since it had been well recognized that *G. lipsiense* was synonymous with *G. applanatum* [2]. This study shows that *G. gibbosum* is

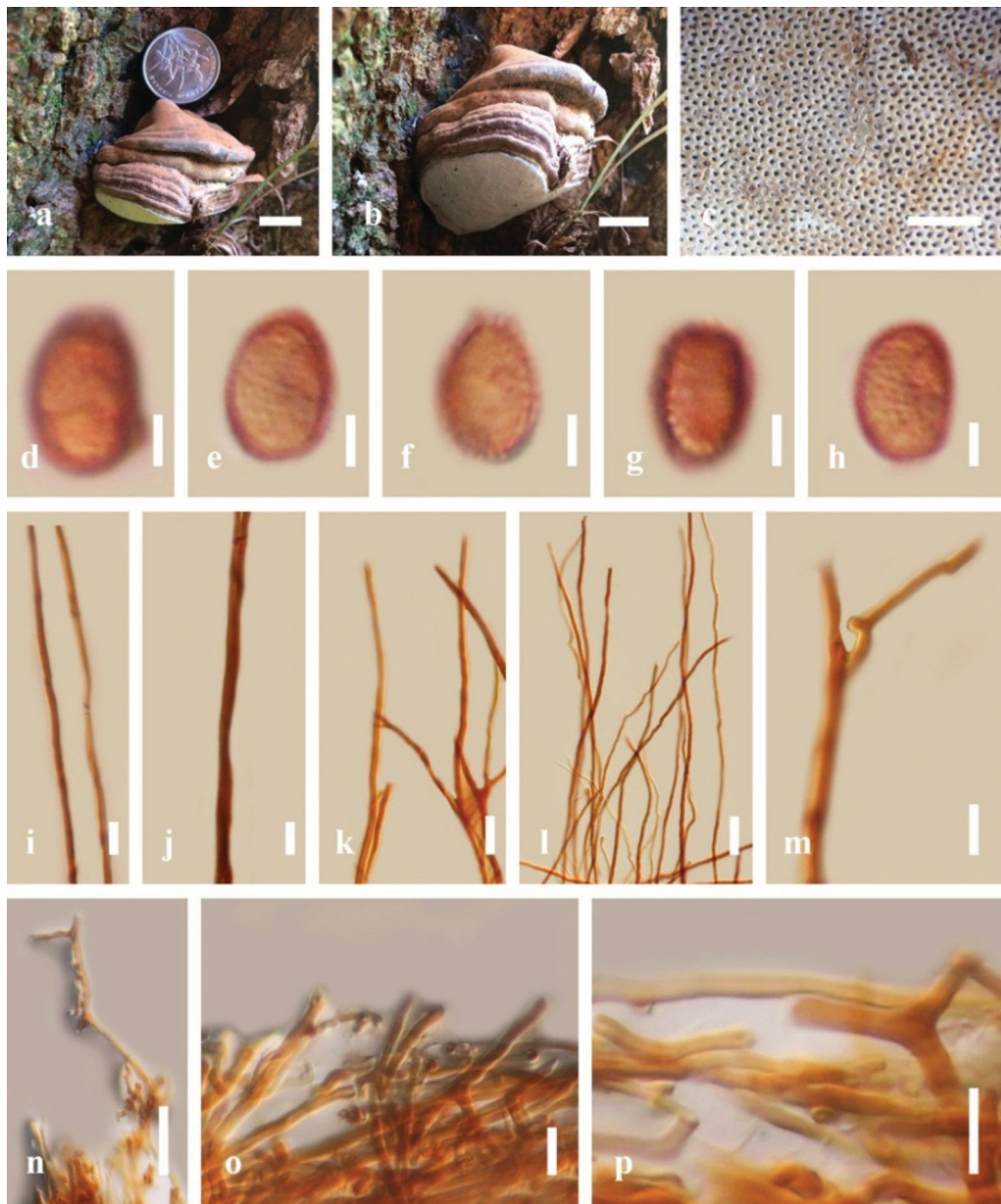


Figure 7: *Ganoderma gibbosum* strain KUMCC17-0010. a–b) Basidiocarp morphology characteristics, c) pore characteristic, d–h) basidiospore in Congo red, i) generative hyphae of context in KOH, j. skeletal hyphae of context in KOH, l–m) binding hyphae and clamp connections of context in KOH, n–p) binding hyphae of tubes in Melzer's reagent. Scale bars: a–b = 1 cm, c = 1000 μm , d–h = 3 μm , i–p = 20 μm

closely related with *G. australe* (75% MP and 0.95 PP). Our results are similar to those of Kaliyaperumal et al. [61], who considered *G. gibbosum* to be a sister clade to *G. australe*. Here, we did not include holotype descriptions and sequences, as the current taxa sampling lacks available data with respect to taxonomy and sequence evidence. Moreover, a few strains have been reported from Australia and North America [24,61]. However, *G. gibbosum* is still the verified species worldwide [62].

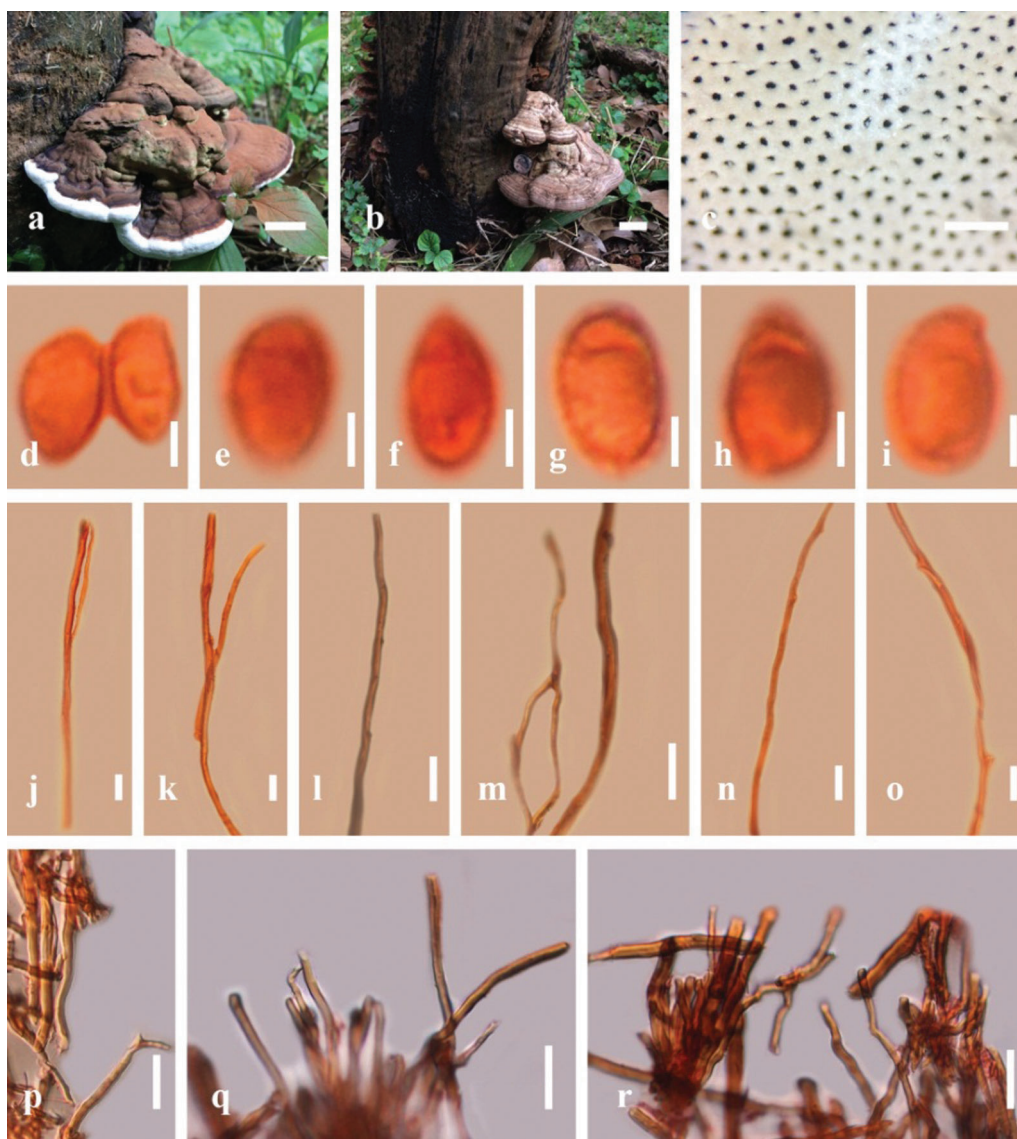


Figure 8: *Ganoderma gibbosum* strain KUMCC17-0013. a–b) perennial basidiocarp morphology characteristics, c) pore characteristic, d–i) basidiospore in Congo red, j–k) generative hyphae of context in Congo red, l–m) skeletal hyphae in Congo red, n–o) hyphae and clamp connections of context in Congo red, p–r) binding hyphae of tubes in KOH. Scale bars: a–b) = 2 cm, c) = 1000 μ m, d–i) = 3 μ m, j–r) = 20 μ m

Our *G. gibbosum* has shared macro-morphology with the Hainan strain, as they both show sessile and annual crust basidiocarps [63]. The Guangzhou strain is sub-flabellate to sub-dimidiata [37], while the Korean strain is short stiped [57]. Regarding stipe attachment, the Korean *Ganoderma* and our collections share identical features in common, including broad attachment or short stipe with host, and pores between 4–6 to 4–7 per mm. In addition, we also illustrate differences in macro-morphological characteristics among the eight non-laccate *Ganoderma*. Lodge [39] proposed that geographical area, host range, weather and environmental parameters often influence fungal morphological characteristics. Although our *G. gibbosum* were collected from a limited geographical area, their tree hosts and substrates

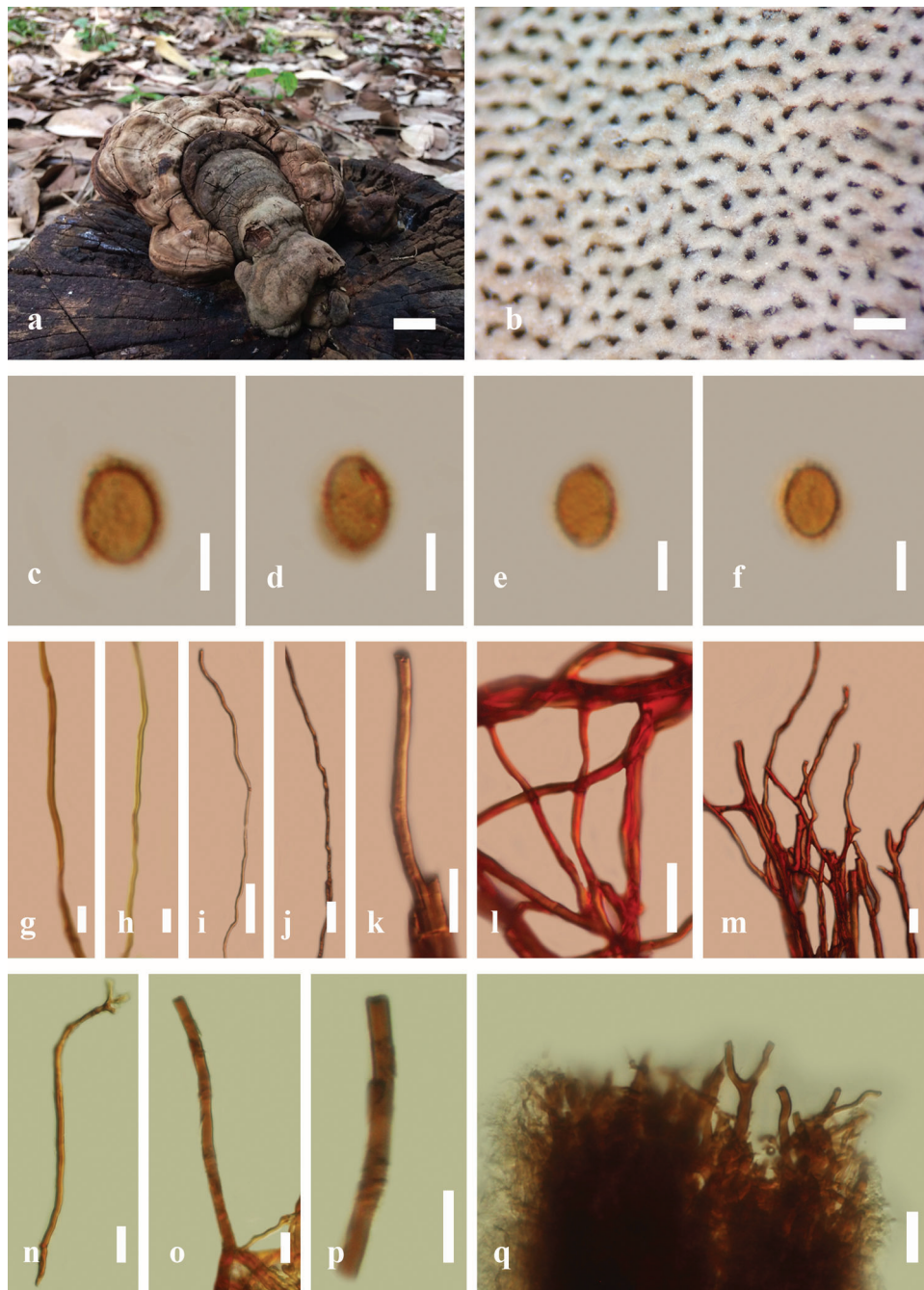


Figure 9: *Ganoderma gibbosum* strain KUMCC17-0014. a) mature basidiocarp morphology characteristics, b) pore characteristic, c–f) basidiospore in Congo red, g–l) hyphae of context in Congo red, m) hyphae and clamp connections of context in Congo red, n–q) hyphae of tubes in Melzer's reagent. Scale bars: a) = 2 cm, b) = 500 μm , c–g) = 3 μm , h–r) = 20 μm

are different. For example, perennial and mature basidiocarps of *G. gibbosum* KUMCC17-0003 are associated with living *Castanopsis* spp.; however, perennial and mature *G. gibbosum* KUMCC17-0005, perennial and young *G. gibbosum* KUMCC17-0009, and old basidiocarps of *G. gibbosum* KUMCC17-0010

Table 2: Dimensions of morphological characteristics of basidiospores, hyphae, pores and tubes layer of *Ganoderma gibbosum* in this study

| Fungal specimen | Basidiospores (μm) | Hyphae (μm) | Pores (per mm) | Tubes layer |
|---|--|-------------|----------------|--|
| <i>Ganoderma gibbosum</i> KUMCC17-0003 | (4.7–) 4.8–7.2 (–7.4) × (7.2–) 7.4–10.7 (–10.9) | 2.8–7.4 | 4–7 | 0.4–1.7 cm long, 50–164 μm wall thick |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> KUMCC17-0005 | (5.1–) 5.2–6.6 (–6.8) × (6.9–) 6.11–11.10 (–11.9) | 2.3–7.6 | 4–7 | 0.4–1.5 cm long, 60–175 μm wall thick |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> KUMCC17-0008 | Not observed | 2.2–7.3 | Not observed | 0.3 × 0.8 cm long, 50–130 μm wall thick |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> KUMCC17-0009 | Not observed | 2.4–7.6 | Not observed | 0.2 × 0.6 cm long, 40–132 μm wall thick |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> KUMCC17-0010 | (5.7–) 5.9–7.0 (–7.2) × (8.8–) 8.9–10.2 (–10.4) | 3.2–7.9 | 4–6 | 0.2 × 1.1 cm long, 50–215 μm wall thick |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> KUMCC17-0013 | (5.3–) 5.5–6.8 (–7.0) × (8.7–) 8.10–10.4 (–10.6) | 3.1–7.9 | 4–5 | 0.3 × 1.8 cm long, 80–230 μm wall thick |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> KUMCC17-0014 | (5.1–) 5.4–7.4 (–7.5) × (8.8–) 8.9–11.3 (–11.5) | 2.1–7.7 | 4–7 | 0.2 × 1.2 cm long, 60–176 μm wall thick |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> KUMCC18-0007 | (4.6–) 4.8–7.0 (–7.2) × (7.8–) 8.0–11.3 (–11.4) | 3.1–7.1 | 4–6 | 0.3 × 0.8 cm long, 50–160 μm wall thick |

Table 3: Basidiospore characteristics of the *Ganoderma gibbosum* specimens analyzed in this study

| Fungal specimen | Basidiospore characteristics |
|---|--|
| <i>Ganoderma gibbosum</i> KUMCC17-0003 | Subglobose to globose, some broadly ellipsoid, and some oblong ellipsoid |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> KUMCC17-0005 | Subglobose to globose, and some broadly ellipsoid |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> KUMCC17-0008 | Not observed |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> KUMCC17-0009 | Not observed |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> KUMCC17-0010 | Subglobose and broadly ellipsoid |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> KUMCC17-0013 | Subglobose, some broadly ellipsoid, and some oblong ellipsoid |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> KUMCC17-0014 | Subglobose and broadly ellipsoid |
| <i>G. gibbosum</i> KUMCC18-0007 | Oblong ellipsoid and some subglobose |

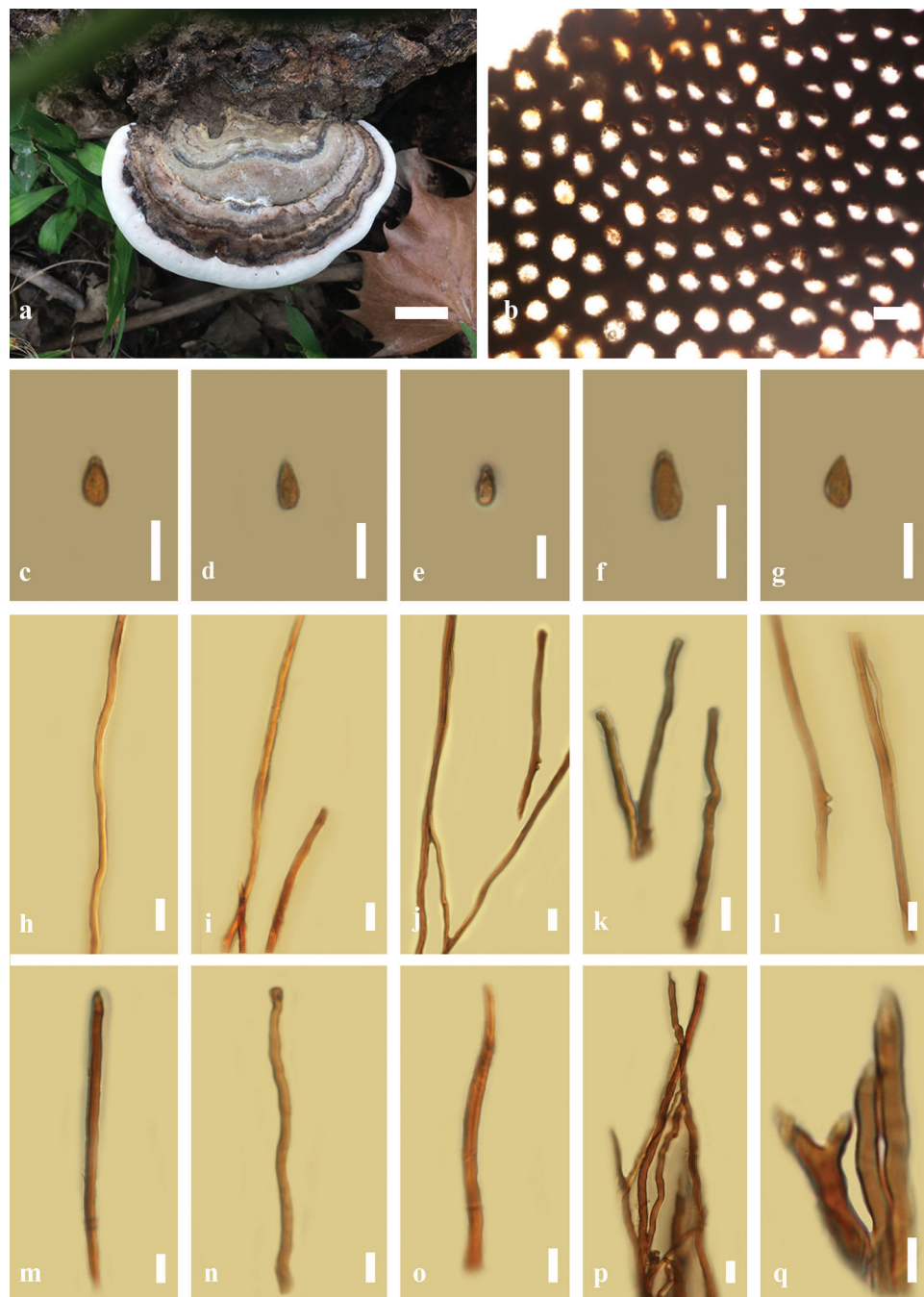


Figure 10: *Ganoderma gibbosum* strain KUMCC18-0007. a) basidiocarp morphology characteristics, b) pore characteristic, c–g) basidiospore in Congo red, h) generative hyphae of context in KOH, i) = skeletal hyphae of context in KOH, j–l) hyphae and clamp connections of context in KOH, m–q) hyphae of tubes in Melzer's reagent. Scale bars: a) = 2 cm, b) = 100 μ m, c–g) = 10 μ m, h–j) = 15 μ m, k–p) = 10 μ m, q) = 5 μ m

are associated with living *Albizia mollis* (Wall.) Boiv.; perennial *G. gibbosum* KUMCC17-008 is associated with living *Machilus yunnanensis* (Lec.); perennial and mature basidiocarps of *G. gibbosum* KUMCC17-0013 and old *G. gibbosum* KUMCC17-0014 were growing on dry stump of an unknown tree species, and perennial

G. gibbosum KUMCC18-0007 was growing at the base of *Quercus glaucooides* (Schottky). Thus, we propose that *G. gibbosum* can grow on different host tree species, as mentioned above. However, *G. steyaertanum*, *G. mastoporum* (= *G. orbiforme*) and *G. philippii* are associated with other tree species, such as *Acacia mangium* [64]; *G. carocalcareus* is associated with *Anthocleista nobilis* [22]. In addition, weather is also considered very important [65]. For example, *G. gibbosum* KUMCC17-0008 was collected after heavy rain, thus its basidiocarps were dark in color and laccate-like when recorded in the field, while *G. gibbosum* KUMCC17-0013 and KUMCC17-0014 were collected when the weather was sunny so basidiocarps were pale in color. Our study is in line with Imazeki [66], which claims that *Ganoderma* is distributed in tropical areas, as well as several other studies that reported the same [67]. Kim et al. [68] reported that Korean *Ganoderma* is usually collected from tropical areas. Thus, we concur with the previous studies that the geographical area, host, substrate, and weather-related factors could affect fungal physiology even within species [69].

Based on our intensive microscopic observations, some *G. gibbosum* collections are within the range of the type species [37], and *G. gibbosum* KUMCC17-0010 and KUMCC17-0013 have double-walled ellipsoid basidiospores, while *G. gibbosum* KUMCC18-0004 has mostly distinctive double-walled oblong-ellipsoid basidiospores. Hapuarachchi et al. [63] has described a Hainan strain of *G. gibbosum* which has ellipsoid to elongate basidiospores. The basidiospore size range of our *G. gibbosum* collections is $(5.1-5.3-7.0(-7.2) \times (8.0-7.9-10.8(-11.0))$, larger than the Korean collections $(4.9-5.6-6.0(-6.5) \times (7.7-8.5-9.2(-9.4) \mu\text{m}$ [57] as well as the Hainan collections $(4.3-6.9-9.2(-10.5) \times (3.8-4.6-5.7(-6.1) \mu\text{m}$ [63]. However, *G. gibbosum* from South America lack detailed macro-micro description.

Ganoderma gibbosum were isolated into PDA media and after 7–28 days of incubation at 25°C, different culture morphological characteristics were observed. *Ganoderma gibbosum* KUMCC17-0008 (Figs. 2e, 2f) culture was identical to KUMCC17-0013, having tightly scattered cottony mycelia after 21 days of incubation. *Ganoderma gibbosum* KUMCC17-0013 culture was similar to KUMCC17-0008 culture after 15–16 days of incubation. Garibova et al. [70] reported that culture conditions affect *Ganoderma* mycelia morphological characteristics. The shape of the original cultures; i.e., internal tissue, circles or irregular shape of culture when plugged, also affect the development of cultures. Moreover, mycelial density also depends on the number of active mycelia plugged on the agar media.

This study clearly shows the morphological variations and phylogenetic affinity among *G. gibbosum* collected from a limited geographical area in Yunnan, China. Wang et al. [71] have also reported that there are high morphological variations within Chinese *Ganoderma*. *Ganoderma* species from different geographic areas have also showed separate lineages in phylogenetic analyses [72,73]. However, high variability in macro-morphological characteristics such as color, shape and size mean that it is often difficult to identify *G. gibbosum* by morphological characteristics alone. So to evaluate the variations in *G. gibbosum* or any *Ganoderma* species, important taxonomic characteristics should be carefully observed in collection and linked with phylogenetic analysis. In the future, worldwide collections of *G. gibbosum* are needed to evaluate taxonomic and phylogenetic variations within the species.

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Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest to report regarding the present study.

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