Abstract

The spore morphology determines the distance and the substrate on which they land. Recent studies show that colonization of a suitable substrate is more important than long-distance dispersal itself. Spore morphology therefore likely reflects specific ecological requirements of a particular species and is shaped by the selective pressure on their effective dispersal. In the case of ectomycorrhizal fungi, on which the work is focused, an important ecological requirement is a substrate where the spore can find a suitable partner for ectomycorrhiza. The beginning of the thesis is dedicated to a brief characterization of ectomycorrhizal fungi. The main part is divided into the summary of current knowledge about the key morphological features of ectomycorrhizal fungi (fruiting body, spore size, spore shape and cell wall ornamentation) and the specific ways how their spores can be dispersed. In the end, I also mention the possibilities of further research in this area.