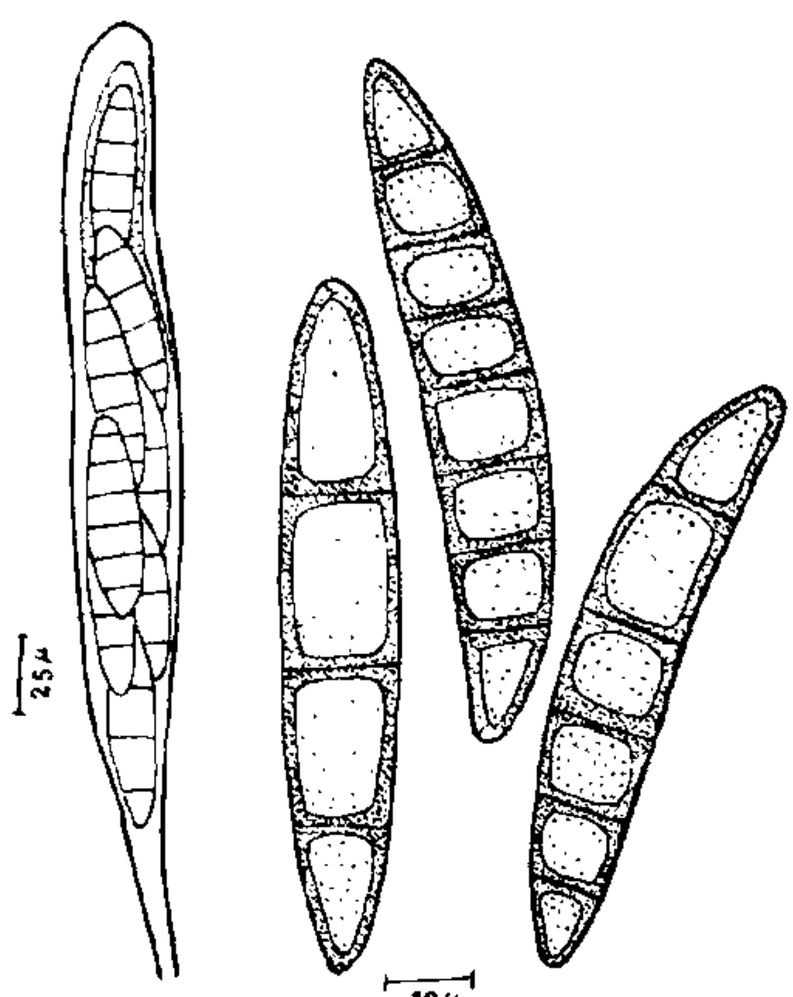
*Trematosphaeria abuensis* SP. NOV.

Perithecia separata, gregaria, erumpeus, globosa cum acutis apicibus, carbonacea, nigra metins 1–1·6 mm in diam. (Fig. 1); asci clavata, bitunicata, basi contracta, 220–363 × 27–32 $\mu$; paraphysatis, paraphyses filiformes, hyalinae; ascospores 8 in singulis asco, bisariata, olivacea, fusiforma, recta val curvata, primo bicellata, demum 3-7 septans, utrique obtusa, 75–84 × 14–16 $\mu$ (Fig. 2).




2b 2c

(*b*) Ascus; (*c*) Ascospores.

Specimen depositum apud CMI, Kew, No. IMI 159622.

Coll. No., J.U.M.L. 68.

Basi arido folio *Phoenix sylvestris* Roxb., Mt. Abu, August, 1971.

The authors are thankful to Dr. A. Johnston, Director, and to Dr. Mulder of CMI, Kew, for the help in the identification of the fungus.

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Jodhpur (India), C. S. GEHLOT.
*December* 8, 1971.

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## A NEW VARIETY OF *CURVULARIA VERRUCIFORMIS* AGARWAL AND SAHNI FROM GRASSLAND SOILS OF JABALPUR

DURING a study of soil fungi from grassland soils of Jabalpur, the authors isolated a *Curvularia* species closely resembling *Curvularia verruciformis* Agarwal and Sahni[1] except for the size of conidia which were significantly larger in our isolate. The culture was referred to Dr. M. B. Ellis of Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew , England, who wrote in his letter to one of the authors that "....In my subcultures of 155724 on P.D.A. and on T.W.A. with rice grains and wheat straw under near U.V. light there were very few 3-septate conidia, the majority being 4-septate, but they did appear to be in all cases significantly larger than in *C. verruciformis*".

In view of this the fungus is being described as a new variety of C. *verruciformis*.

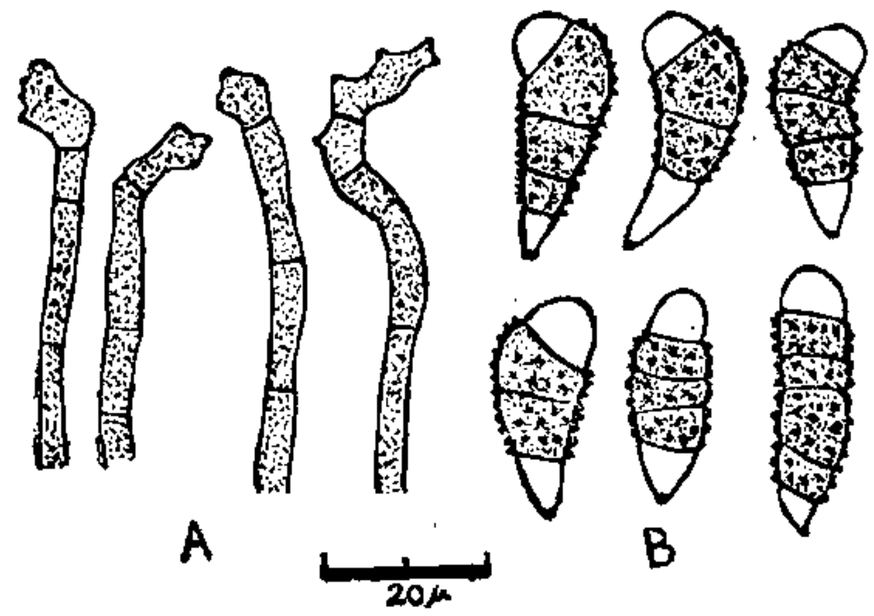


FIG. 1. Camera lucida diagrams of *Curvularia verruciformis* var. *magneta*. A. Conidiphores; B. Conidia.

*Curvalaria verruciformis* VAR. *magneta* TIWARI AND AGRAWAL VAR. NOV.

Coloniae in agaro dextroso solanaceo moderate crescentes, floccosae vel sub-floccosae, constantes hyphis densis irregulariter ramosis septatis, 3·0–6·5 $\mu$ latis. Conidiophora pallide brunnea, simplicia, erecta vel curvata, septata, longitudinis variae, septata, 3·0–5·0 $\mu$ latis. Conidia insidentia in spiris ad regionis apicalis conidiophorum, pallide brunnea, nonnumquam vel curvata, 3-5 septata, vulgo 4-septata, tertia cellula ex basi amplissima et fusciori, cellulis centralibus concoloribus, cellulis terminalibus pallidioribus, cellulis media episporis aspero opertis, terminalibus vero levi, 19·9–34·3 × 6·0–13·2 $\mu$, mediet 27·2 × 10·6 $\mu$.

Lectus in soil mense Novembri, 1970 in loco Jabalpur, in M.P., in India.

Colonies on potato-dextrose agar growing moderately, floccose to sub-floccose, consisting of dense irregularly branched septate hyphae, 3·0–6·5 $\mu$ broad. Conidiophores light brown, simple, erect or bent, septate, of variable length, 3·0–5·0 $\mu$ broad. Conidia borne in spirals at the apical region of conidiophore,

light brown, straight or curved, 3 to 5-septate usually 4-septate, third cell from the base larger, central cells concolorous, the end cells light coloured, rough epispore over the central cells, end cells with smooth epispore, 19·9–34·3 × 6·0–13·2 $\mu$, average 27·2–10·6 $\mu$.

Isolated from soil in November, 1970 from Jabalpur, M.P., India.

The type culture has been deposited in the herbarium I.M.I. No. 155724.

We express our grateful thanks to Dr. M. B. Ellis and Dr. G. P. Agarwal for kindly examining the culture, to Mr. N. D. Sharma for helping in Latin translation and to the Principal for laboratory facilities.

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Jabalpur, M.P.,
*December* 16, 1971.

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# SHORT SCIENTIFIC NOTES

## A New Record of a Rust on Groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) in India

In course of studies on groundnut, a rust was observed in plants grown in pots in the green house of State Agricultural Research Institute, Calcutta. The appearance of sori was first noticed on the leaflets in November 1971, when the plants were about forty-five days old.

The infection was confined to the leaves, the lower leaves being the first to be infected. Rarely sori were observed on the petioles. Uredia were mostly hypophyllous, sometimes epiphyllous. The upper surface of leaflets might present a grey appearance due to the formation of flecks which correspond to the position of the sori below. Uredia were minute to 1 mm in diameter and deep brown in colour. They were either isolated or in groups and were formed subepidermally on compact stromata but soon burst through the epidermis and become exposed.

Uredospores were borne on short, hyaline pedicels. The uredospores were spherical or oval with 2, occasionally 3 or 4 equatorial germpores, yellowish in colour, echinulate, measuring 19·80–33·00 $\mu$ × 18·50–26·40 $\mu$; paraphyses were lacking. Telia were not observed.

The samples sent to the Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, England (Accession Number IMI 163530) were identified as *Puccinia arachidis* Speg.

A comprehensive list of fungi recorded in India by Vasudeva[1] and subsequent supplements[2,3] does not include the rust of groundnut. Further literature survey indicated that this rust is apparently unrecorded from India, hence this report constitutes its first record.

Our sincere thanks are due to Dr. Mulder, C.M.I., England, for identifying the organism.

State Agricultural Research Institute, B. D. SHARMA.
S. K. MUKHERJI.
Calcutta-40, *February* 22, 1972.

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## A Note on the Preorbital Spine in *Danio* Species

Three *Danio* species, *D. devario* (Ham.). *D. aequipinnatus* (Mc Clell) and *D. rerio* (Ham.) are common in rivers and tanks around Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. Apart from other diagnostic characters, the presence of a small backward projecting spine on the anterior orbital rim has been used by Smith[1] as the main character in identifying *D. regina* Fowler and *D. aequipinnatus*. In the case 'of the former species from Thailand he observed the posteriorly directed preorbital spine, but regarding the latter species he mentions that "It was first pointed out by Vinciguerra (1889–90, p. 304) and later confirmed by Myers (in Herre and Myers, 1937, p. 57) that in this species there is a preorbital spinous process as in (*D*) *regina*"[1].

Our observations on the three *Danio* species mentioned above, however, reveal that no preorbital spine is present in *D. rerio*, but an