Research Station, Hyderabad, for kindly supplying the seeds of male sterile and fertile inbred lines of maize.

Division of Mycology Plant Pathology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi-110012, *August* 28, 1973.

RAM NATH.
A. K. LAMBAT.
M. M. PAYAK.
(MISS) JANKI LILARAMANI.
(MRS.) INDRA RANI.

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SHORT SCIENTIFIC NOTES

A Note on Some Aquatic Phycomycetes from Hyderabad (India)

During the survey of microfungi from pond waters of Hyderabad District (A.P.), the author has isolated the following interesting fungi; *Acaulopage macrospora, Allomyces anomalus, Gonapodya prolifera, Myzocytium megastomum, Pythiella* sp. and *Rozella* sp. Of these, *Acaulopage macrospora* and *Myzocytium megastomum* form new additions to the fungi of India and are described here. The remaining fungi are new records for South India.

Acaulopage macrospora Drechsler, in *Mycologia*, 1935, 27 : 176–205.

Mycelium sparse, non-septate, occasionally branched, 1·0–2·0 μ wide; conidia elongate, cylindric, tapering towards the abruptly rounded basal and distal ends, sometimes distally bifurcated, 30–60 × 1·6–3·2 μ; zygospores not observed.

Isolated from pond water on maize grain bait, Vikarabad (Hyderabad District, A.P.), 28th November 1972 (OUF 2/p).

Myzocytium megastomum de Wildemann, *Ann. Soc. Belge. Micro* (Mem.) 1893, 17 : 53 : Sparrow, F. K. Jr. *Aquatic Phycomycetes*, 1943, 652–653.

Zoosporangia ellipsoidal or ovoid, 16–30 μ in diameter, occurring in bead like linear series, separated by narrow cross walls; discharge tube frequently equatorial, narrowly cylindrical, distinctly expanded just beneath the host wall, prolonged extramatrically for a variable distance, usually 50 μ long, rarely upto 120 μ long and 32 μ wide; sex organs not observed.

Parasitic in the vegetative cells of *Spirogyra* sp., collected in pond water, Vikarabad (Hyderabad District, A.P.), 19th March 1972 (OUF 3/p).

The author expresses his thanks to Dr. H. Canter Lund, Freshwater Biological Association, Ambleside, Westmorland, England and Prof. R. Emerson, Department of Botany, University of California, for their help in the identification. He wishes to express his gratitude to Dr. P. Ramarao, Reader in Botany, Osmania University, for guidance and Prof. M. R. Suxena, Head of the Department of Botany, Osmania University, for encouragement.

Mycology and Plant Pathology Laboratory, Botany Department, Osmania University, Hyderabad-500007, A.P., India, *October* 25, 1973.

C. MANOHARACHARY.

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A Note on the Occurrence of Halite in Bikaner Area, Rajasthan*

Occurrence of rock salt (Halite) in the Indian sub-continent is known to be restricted in the Himalayan mobile belt (Punjab Salt Range, Kohat Salt Field, Pakistan; and Mandi, India). No occurrence whatsoever, either in the out-crop or in the sub crop, has so far been reported from the shield area.

The objective of this note is to report the occurrence of pure halite in the Bikaner area of Rajasthan. The implication of this occurrence on the Indian geology *vis-a-vis* the causes of water salinity

(surface and sub-surface), possibility of the occurrence of potash salts, and hydrocarbons are indeed far reaching.

In course of hydrogeological studies under the United Nations assisted Project, the exploratory borehole at Lakhasar (28° 06′ : 72° 51′) in the Bikaner area of Rajasthan encountered pure halite at a depth of 541 m (inferred from the electrical Log). Core of halite recovered from 553·3 to 556·4 m depth revealed that the halite is pure, crystalline and waxy. Chemical analysis of the core sample revealed the following constituents which compare favourably with the Kohat Salt :

Constituents	Lakhasar (salt) (Analyst: Sh. Y. P. Kakar UNDP Project, Jodhpur	Bahadur Khel (Kohat Salt) (Pascoe, Vol. III p. 1525)
Chlorides (Cl)	60·00%	59·52%
Sodium (Na)	35·00%	37·47%
CaO	0·22%	1·06%
MgO	0·23%	..
SO_3	..	1·50%
Insolubles	0·34%	0·45%
Undetermined Radicals	4·21%	

Sequentially the halite is overlain by anhydrite, which in turn is overlain by alternating beds of maroon sandstone and shales. This sequence has hitherto been correlated with the Upper Vindhyans (Hacket, 1881 ; Heron, 1932 ; Auden, 1950 ; Ray Choudhury *et al.*, 1962 ; Sogani and Khan, 1964–67 ; Khan and Tarafdar, 1969 ; Khan, 1969).

Based on physical characteristics, chemical quality and associated rock sequence, the authors tentatively correlate and Lakhasar sequence with the Kohat salt sequence of Pakistan.

The present discovery establishes the existence of a complete evaporite sequence more or less on a regional scale, where it possibly forms a part of the extensive Indo-Pak marine basin. Although the associated anhydrite-gypsum beds assume an average thickness of about 15 m extending over hundreds of square kilometres, the existence of Potash could not be established. However, natural gamma logs indicate strong possibility of the existence of Potash salts as well.

U.N.D.P. Project,
Jodhpur,
August 20, 1973.

B. P. C. Sinha.
G. D. S. Singh.
A. R. Baksh.
G. C. Bhatnagar.

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* Publication authorised by the Chief Hydrogeologist, Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Award of Research Degrees

Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, has awarded the Ph.D. degree in Mathematics to Shri V. Srinivasan, and Ph.D. degree in Zoology to Shri V. R. Selvarajan.

Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, has awarded the Ph.D. degree in Zoology to Shri P. S. Prakasa Rao.

Training Course in Handling and Application of Radioisotopes

The Hyderabad Science Society is conducting training courses in handling and applications of Radioisotopes twice a year at the Society's premises with the financial and technical assistance of the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India.

The course consists of theory and practical sessions lasting six weeks. The Seventh Training Course Programme is scheduled to commence from 14th January 1974.

Scientists and Technologists working in programmes utilising Radioisotopes can be enrolled for the course.

Further details and application form can be obtained from the Hon. Director, Hyderabad Science Society, 12-2-460, Malkapur, Asifnagar, Hyderabad-500028.