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Achlya stellata de Bary—A New Record from India

Achlya stellata has been recently isolated from a water sample from Gorakhpur which forms the first record of this fungus from India. The following description of the isolate is made from bacteria-free cultures growing on sterilized hemp-seed halves in sterile distilled water at 22–25° C.

Achlya stellata de Bary

Mycelium moderately extensive, diffuse; two-week-old colony 1.5–2.5 cm in diameter; principal hyphae slender, branched, 70–105 μ in diameter at base. *Zoosporangia* moderately abundant fusiform or clavate, less frequently naviculate or filiform; 275–550 μ long by 18–45 μ in diameter, predominantly 350–500 \times 25–35 μ ; renewed sympodially, occasionally cymosely; zoospore discharge achlyoid; spore cluster not persistent; encysted spores 7.3–10 μ in diameter. *Gemmae* absent. *Oogonia* abundant, terminal on main hyphae or on lateral branches which are commonly curved or rarely once coiled; oogonia spherical pyriform, often with a neck, the basal septum often having an inward projection; 35–84 μ in diameter predominantly 55.5–70 μ inclusive of ornamentations. Oogonial wall unpitted; densely ornamented with conical or mammi-form papillae. *Antheridia* usually absent or very sparse—present on about 1% oogonia; when present normally one to an oogonium; monoclinal (androgynous) on a long or rarely short antheridial branch, antheridial cells thin walled, tubular or clavate; apically or very rarely laterally appressed to the oogonium. *Oospheres* usually one, rarely two in an oogonium, normally, spherical but occasionally ovoid, filling the oogonium and maturing. *Oospores* subcentric; 32.5–46.5 μ in diameter, predominantly 30–37 μ .

Collected from Jalwania Pond, Gorakhpur, January 12, 1974. I wish to thank Dr. M. W. Dick, University of Reading, England, for critically examining the description and offering valuable suggestions. I also wish to thank Dr. Y. B. Singh, Principal, St. Andrew's College, Gorakhpur, for providing facilities for work.

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Axillary Testis in the Common House Crow (*Corvus splendens* Vieillot) and Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis* Linnaeus)

While studying the annual reproductive cycle of some avian species inhabiting the semi-arid and arid tracts of Rajasthan one specimen each of the common house crow and egret was encountered which exhibited an axillary testis. Both the abnormal birds were examined in the month of July when the birds were sexually active.

In most of the birds including the crow and egret the left testis is longer than the right. However, in the abnormal birds the left testis was smaller than the right. The left axillary testis was attached independently and was in direct communication with the left vas deferens.

Histologically, the axillary testis of common house crow and cattle egret resembled in every respect with the individual testes of the abnormal specimens as well as with the testes of normal sexually active males dissected on the same day. The axillary testes of both the specimens were spermatogenetically active containing all stages of developing germ cells.

In the absence of earlier reports, the above abnormalities in the male reproductive organs of the common house crow and the cattle egret, may be considered to be purely developmental in which probably physiological rather than cytological or genetic changes are concerned.

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