

**MODIFICATION IN THE LABIAL GLANDS OF
LARVA OF SYNTOMIS FORTUNEI ORZA
(SYNTOMIDAE: LEPIDOPTERA)**

OUR knowledge of the biology of *Syntomis fortunei* on soybean is due to Singh and Gangrade³ (1974) and as no significant information is available on the labial glands, an attempt is made here briefly to indicate the modification of these glands in the larvae. The labial glands of the larvae of *S. fortunei* (Fig. 1) are the

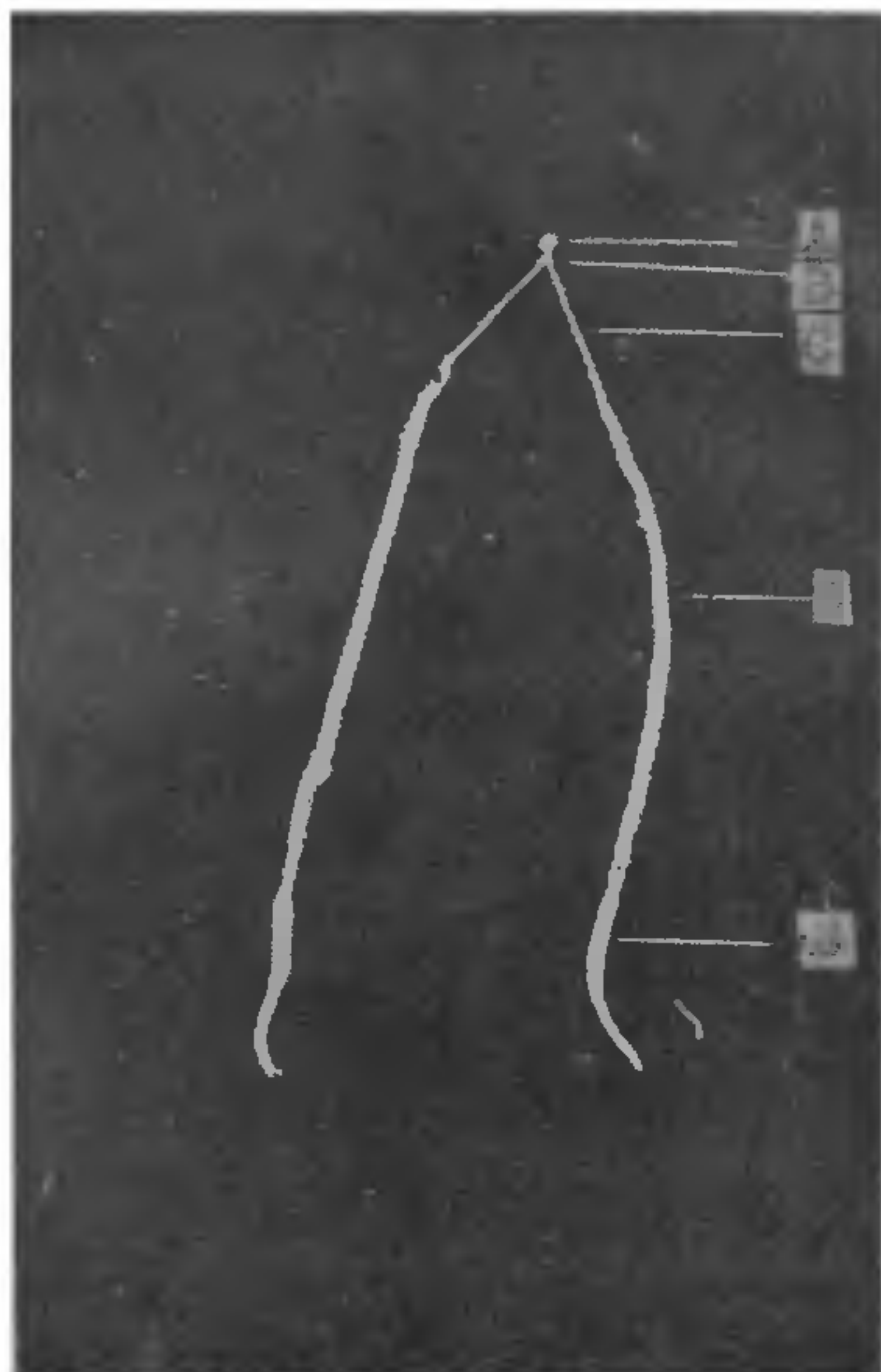


FIG. 1. Labial glands of *Syntomis fortunei* Orza.

most characteristic paired appendages associated with the digestive canal, lying partly on its lateral sides in the thoracic segment and partly underneath it from first to third abdominal segments where they usually end. Anteriorly, the two glands enter into the head a little anterior of the prothoracic ganglion, to form a common duct (B) which extends below the hypopharynx to open on the spinneret (A) of the labium. The fillipi's glands are completely absent in this species. In other lepidopterans, *Spodoptera litura* (Shrivastava and Mathur², 1963) and *Acherontia styx* (Mukherjee¹, 1962), the fillipi's glands are present in different shapes. Each duct of the glands beyond the head region is narrow, elongate and cylindrical (C) in the prothorax and anterior mesothorax and then assumes a lobular structure (D) through the mesothorax. The lobes are packed closely in the opposite walls of the duct in a slightly slanting position so that the duct appears very closely zig-zag or spiral (Fig. 2, D). Further

down the duct is enlarged in diameter to become saccular and smooth walled (E). Such a structure of the labial glands of the larvae of *S. fortunei* is at complete variance with the anterior tubular and posterior S-shaped glands of the larva of *Spodoptera litura* (Shrivastava and Mathur², 1963) and greatly convoluted glands of the larva of *Acherontia styx* (Mukherjee¹, 1962).

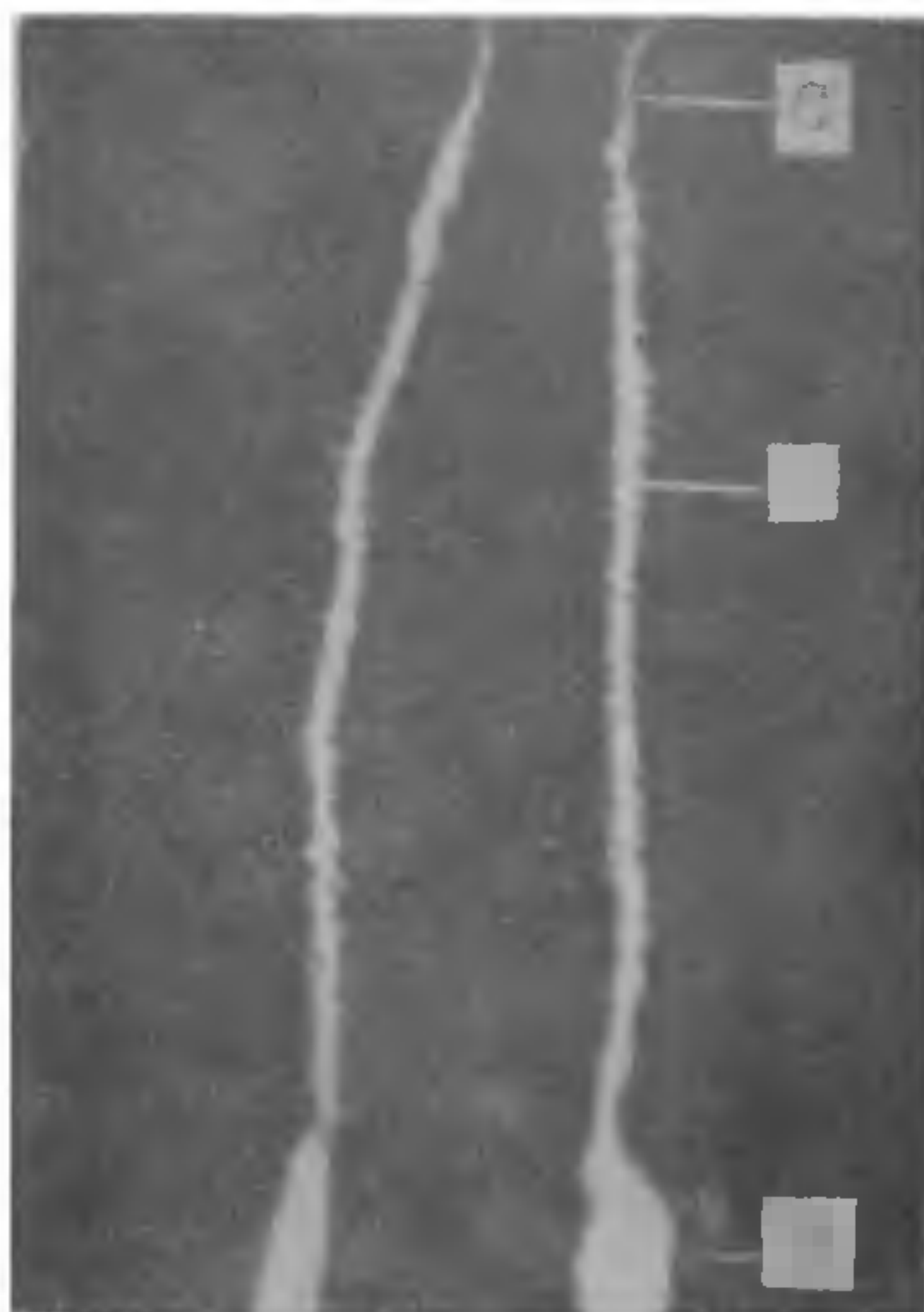


FIG. 2. An enlargement of labial glands of *S. fortunei* showing C, D and E parts only.

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J.N. Agricultural University, G. A. GANGRADE.
Jabalpur, India, January 6, 1977.

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**NIPTERA INDICA SP. NOV., A NEW GENERIC
RECORD TO INDIA**

A RARE discomycete was collected on three different hosts from three separate localities of Maharashtra, thereby showing wide distribution of this fungus. On examination and critical study, the fungus proved to be an undescribed species of the apothecial genus—*Niptera* Fr.¹ (Dermateaceae). This genus had remained unrepresented in the fungal flora of India so far².

TABLE I
Comparison between species of *Niptera*

Species	Apothecia	Asci	Ascospores	Reference
<i>N. lacustris</i> (Fr.) Summa. (type sp.)	22-30 × 6-9 μm	Saccardo ⁷
<i>N. taxi</i> Rea	0.2-0.6 mm	50-60 × 8-10 × μm	8-12 × 4 μm	C. Rea ⁶
<i>N. subilata</i> Seaver	1 mm	60-75 × 6 μm	8-10 × 2-2.5 μm	J. Seaver ⁸
<i>N. Muelleri-Argovensis</i> Rehm	0.5 mm	30-40 × 4-5 μm	9-10 × 1.5-2 μm	Graddon ⁴
<i>N. indica</i> (present study)	608-640 μ 134-192 μm	80-100 × 7-9 μm	9-20 × 3.5-5.5 μm	Authors' Collection

Being of rare occurrence and a new species addition to Indian fungi, a brief Latin diagnosis of the fungus is provided.

Niptera indica sp. nov.

Apothecia distincta, aggregate vel dispersa, cupulata vel discoidea, sessilia, superficialia, non-subiculata, atracarnosa, haustoria immersa intro textus; magnitudine, 608-640 × 134-192 μm; excipula textura globulosa parenchymatibus, pallide-burnnea, 50 μm in diam.; epithecia nullae; asci cylindraceo vel clavatae, brevia stipitatae, unitunicatae, octosporae, magnitudine 80-100 × 7-9 μm; ascosporae distichae, ellipsoideae vel cylindraceae, hyalinae, uni-septatae raro bi-vel tri-septatae, constrictae ad septa, magnit, 9.0-20.0 × 3.5-5.5 μm: paraphysoidia filiformia, hyalina et numerosa.

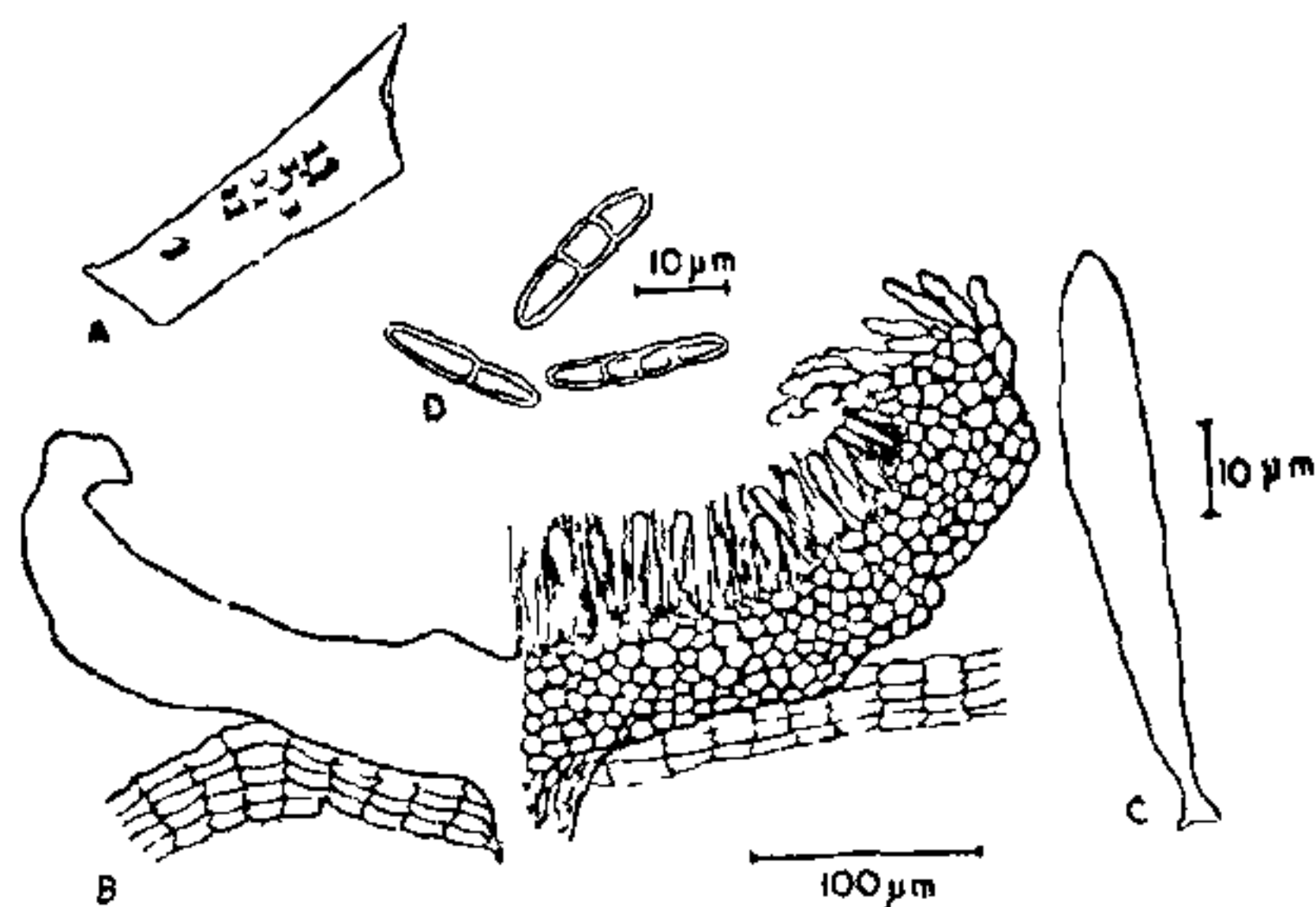


FIG. 1. *Niptera indica* sp. nov. A, Habit; B, Apothecium in V.S.; C, An ascus; D, Ascospores.

Matrix: On the wood of *Syzygium cumini* (L.) Skeels (Fam. Myrtaceae) Legit A.W.S. at Bhimashankar (2-12-1973) No. AMH 3381 (*Holotypus*).

This is a highly controversial genus with respect to its nomenclature and validity. However, recently Dennis³ discussed its position at length and reinstated the name—*Niptera*²

The present collection was found to be distinct from the type species, viz., *Niptera lacustris* (Fr.) Summa.⁷ and the other known species in gross morphological characters besides being collected on hitherto unreported hosts.

Remarks: This fungus was also collected on *Nilgiri-anthus reticulatus* (Stapf.) Brem. and *Grevia hirsuta* Vahl. at Torna Fort and Mahabaleshwar No. AMH 2071, C.M.I. 197436 and No. AMH 2521, C.M.I. 193249 respectively.

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