A NEW SPECIES OF CHARACIUM—CHARACIUM INDICUM PATEL ET ISABELLA SP. NOV.

DURING the course of the investigations of fresh water algae in Gujarat, the authors collected one new species of Characiun, C. indicum sp. nov. from Railway sidings at Vallabha Vidyanagar in August, 1965. Characiun indicum Patel et Isabella Sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Fig. 1. Characiun indicum Patel et Isabella sp. nov. Showing the nature and habitat of the plant with the host—Closterium sp. (× 1,700).

Cells with a distinct basal stalk, not very long and provided with a small knob-like disc. Cells slightly curved and more or less lanceolate with both sides tapering somewhat gradually. Free end acute or somewhat rounded. Chloroplast single, parietal and with a pyrenoid. Cells 7-1-8-8 µm broad, 27-6-34-7 µm long. Stalk 3-5-4-7 µm long.

Habitat: Growing on Closterium in Rly. sidings, Vallabha Vidyanagar, 7-8-1965 (No. 711).

Latin Diagnosis

Characiun indicum Patel et Isabella Sp. Nov.

Cellulis distinctis stipitibus basalisibus longis, habentibus parvis basalisibus discis gongylodibus; cellulis plenimusue curvis, lancelolatis durbus lateribus gradatim contractis. Terminis disclrte acidis vel plenimusue rosenlis. Chloroplasds singulis, paretibus, pyrenoldibus. Cellulis 7-1-8-8 µm latris, 27-6-34-7 µm longis; stipitiulis 3-5-4-7 µm longis. Habitat: Crescentibus in Closterium in via fertes laterali in Vallabha Vidyanagar, 7-8-1965 (No. 711).

The alga under consideration here resembles (1) Characiun acuminatum A. Braun in having a knob-like basal disc but differs in that the cells are not as symmetrical as in C. acuminatum, the stalk is comparatively longer, the beak is not acuminated, the cells are not oblong to ellipsoid and the cells are much smaller, the dimensions of C. acuminatum being 15-25 µm broad and 35-50 µm long (See Brunthaler1, 1915, 79; Koshikov2, 1953, 161;
Philipose3, 1967, 84). (2) C. braunii Bruggaer in the cell shape, short stalk and the dimensions of the cells which are 6.5-13 x 25 -32 μm. However the present alga is not as regular as C. braunii, the basal attaching portion is in the form of a knob-like disc which is brownish and the apex is not as pointed. (3) C. angustum in the lanceolate shape of the cell, the short stalk and the short beak which is sometimes slightly rounded and stumpy (as in C. angustum forma Stockmayer) but differs in the cells being less regular and much smaller and the attachment being in the form of a knob-like basal disc and not a knob1-3.

Since the present alga does not completely agree with the three species mentioned above in spite of resemblance in a few features or any other species known to the authors, it is considered here as a new species C. indicum sp. nov.

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Department of Biosciences, Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, 388 120, Gujarat, India, August 21, 1978.

1. Brunnbaler, J., Protococcales-Pascher’s Süßwasserneta H., Jena, 1913, 5, 52.

EPIDERMAL STUDIES IN SOME MEMBERS OF OLEACEAE

The present communication which deals with the study of epidermal features of five genera (eight species) of Oleaceae has been undertaken for a better understanding of this family. The species investigated are: Jasmundum disparsum Wall., Ligustrum robustum Blume, Olea dentata Wall., O. glandulifera Wall., Osmanthus fragrans Wall., O. suavis King, Syringa persica L. and S. vulgaris L.

Method employed for the preparation of slides and various measurements is after that of Srivastava4.

Leaves are hypotomatic in all the species investigated. The cell walls are irregular in shape in Olea dentata (Fig. 5 A-B), Syringa persica (Fig. 3 A-B), Osmanthus fragrans (Fig. 6 A-B), O. suavis (Fig. 7 A-B). They are polygonal in Olea glandulifera (Fig. 1 A-B) and Syringa vulgaris (Fig. 2 A-B). The anticlinal walls of epidermal cells are straight in Olea glandulifera (Fig. 1 A-B) and Syringa vulgaris (Fig. 2 A-B) and sinuous in Olea dentata (Fig. 5 A-B), Syringa persica (Fig. 3 A-B) and Osmanthus fragrans (Fig. 6 A-B). In species like Osmanthus suavis (Fig. 7 A-B) and Jasmundum dispersum (Fig. 8 A-B) the cell walls are more or less arcuate. However, in Ligustrum robustum (Fig. 4 A-B) only the lower epidermal cells are arcuate and the upper are straight-walled.

Figs. 1-8. Lower (A) and upper (B) epidermides of Olea glandulifera (1), Syringa vulgaris (2), S. persica (3), Ligustrum robustum (4), Olea dentata (5), Osmanthus fragrans (6), O. suavis (7) and Jasmundum dispersed (8).

Stomata are of anomocytic type surrounded by 4-7 subsidiary cells. Osmanthus fragrans stands out among all the species possessing highest stomatal frequency (296 per sq. mm). The measurements of various epidermal characters such as epidermal cell size, stomatal frequency, etc., in the different species are given in Table I. Cuticular striations are present in Olea dentata (Fig. 5 B), Osmanthus fragrans (Fig. 6 B), Syringa persica (Fig. 3 A) and S. vulgaris (Fig. 2 A-B). They are either confined to the upper surface (Osmanthus fragrans, Olea dentata) or present on the lower surface (Syringa persica) also. However, in Syringa vulgaris the striations are elongate and sometimes extend from one stoma to another in the form of rays or bands. Cuticular striations have also been reported in some genera of Oleaceae by Janam1 and Srivastava2-3.

Glandular peltate hairs are present along both the leaf surfaces in all the investigated species. However, In