

ADDITION TO INDIAN FUNGI

DURING the mycological studies, authors have isolated two interesting fungi. A scrutiny of the list of Indian Fungi in literatures indicated that these are new for the Indian record.

(I) *Verticellium lacanii* (Zimm) Viegas.

Isolated from Sawdust at Gyanpur during January 1977. The specimen has been deposited in C.M.I., Kew, England (I.M.I. No. 227852).

(II) *Ulocladium chartarum* (Preuss) Simmons.

Isolated from Sawdust at Gyanpur during September 1977. The culture has been deposited in C.M.I., Kew, England (I.M.I. No. 227870).

The authors thank the Director, C.M.I., Kew, England, for identification of specimens and Prof. V. S. Srivastava, Head of Department of Botany, for laboratory facilities.

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DAMPING OFF OF CARDAMOM CAUSED BY *RHIZOCTONIA SOLANI* KUHN

A NURSERY disease of cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum* Maton) characterised by damping off of the seedlings in the primary nursery beds was noticed during the monsoon months of 1976, at the Cardamom Research Station, Pampadumpara in the Idikki District of Kerala State.

Symptoms appeared after the emergence of the seedlings. The collar region of infected seedlings exhibited light brown discoloration in the early stages. As the infection advanced, the colour became dark brown and such seedlings collapsed and decayed (Fig. 1). In the case of older seedlings, as the collar



FIG. 1. Left—Healthy, Right—Infected seedlings.

region became brown, the lower leaves appeared water-soaked and later on became dingy white to yellowish-

brown and parchment-like. Infected seedlings eventually collapsed at the collar, shrivelled and died in patches. On uprooting the infected seedlings, the basal regions including the young developing rhizomes appeared dirty brown and decayed. Roots were similarly affected (Fig. 2).

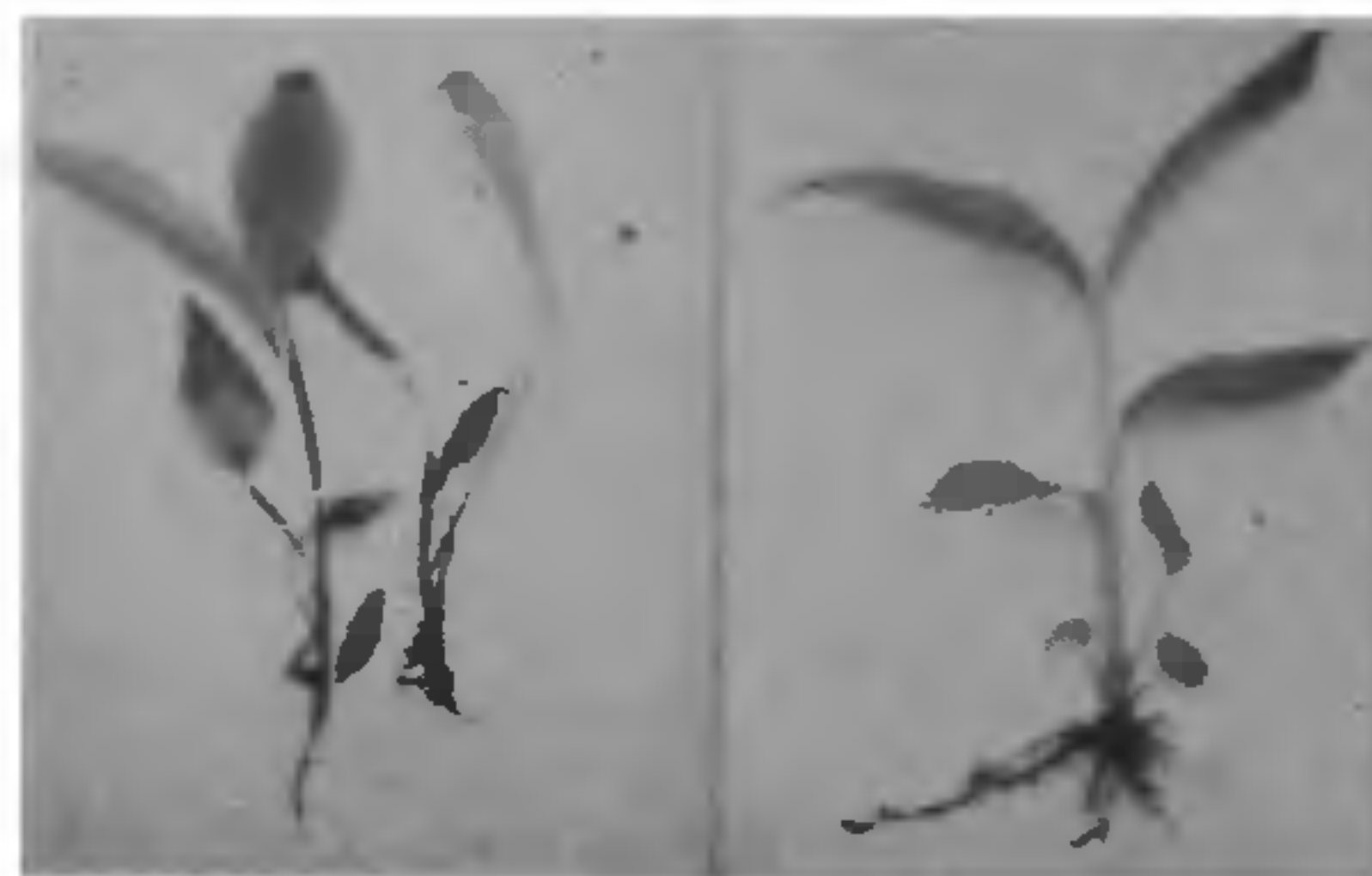


FIG. 2. Left—Infected seedlings—roots decayed, Right—Healthy seedling.

The fungus was isolated and brought to pure culture on Czapek's agar medium. Artificial inoculations proved the fungus to be highly pathogenic to cardamom seedlings. Rotting of well developed rhizomes also occurred, when artificially inoculated with the fungus.

The fungus was identified as *Rhizoctonia solani* Kuhn. A culture of the fungus has been deposited at the Commonwealth Mycological Institute, England (IMI No. 227934).

Subba Rao¹ reported a rhizome rot of cardamom associated with *Rhizoctonia solani* and nematodes. There is no record of this fungus causing damping off.

The authors wish to thank Dr. J. E. M. Mordue of the C.M.I., Kew, England, for confirming the identity of the fungus.

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1. Subba Rao, M. K., *Adm. Rep. Tea Sci. Dept. UPASI*, 1938, p. 28.

TERMITOMYCES MICROCARPUS, A NEW INDIAN EDIBLE MUSHROOM

Termitomyces microcarpus (Berk and Br.) Heim, a popular and delicious edible mushroom was collected from the University Farm at Kalyani, West Bengal, during August, 1977. This fungus was found to occur in large numbers on termite mounds. The mushroom appeared after a few showers of rain and lasted only for a few days.

The basidiocarps (Fig. 1) are centrally stipitate, slightly umbonate; greyish white but olive brown

in the umbona region; Pileus 1-2 cm wide, gills free, white; stipe 2-5 cm long, slightly enlarged at the base, white, solid; pseudorhiza not distinct, sometimes absent, penetrating 1-3 cm below the soil but without volva; both hymenophoral trama and cuticular trama are regular; Basidia clavate, $28-32 \times 6.5-9.0 \mu$, tetrasterigmatic; Cystidia cylindrical $31-36 \times 5-6.5 \mu$, rare; Epore print white to greyish yellow, nonamyloid; Basidiospores ellipsoid, smooth, thinwalled, $6.5-7 \times 3.5-4.5 \mu$.

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December 15, 1978.

1. Purakayastha, R. P., and Chandra, A., *Indian Edible Mushrooms*, Calcutta, Firma KLM Pvt. Ltd., 1976.

AN UNDESCRIBED SPECIES OF *STILBOSPORA* (COELOMYCETES) FROM MAHARASHTRA

DURING a mycological survey around Poona, an interesting species of *Stilbospora* Pers. ex Merat. was collected on dead twigs of *Syzygium cumini* (L.) Skeels (= *Eugenia jambolana* Lamk.) forming crust-like acervular colonies. For its diagnosis and specific identity the fungus was studied in detail with respect to morphology and dimensions of various fruiting structures. Further, it was also compared with other known species of *Stilbospora*¹⁻³ including the type species, viz., *S. macrospora* Pers. and found to differ greatly in the size of acervuli and conidia. It is, therefore, described here as a new species.

Stilbospora poonensis sp. nov. (Fig. 1).

Acervuli immersa vel erumpentia, sub-globosa vel conica, carbonaceae, nigra nitentia, solitaria, dispersa et aggregata, $420-525 \times 340-375 \mu\text{m}$. Conidiophora hyalina, vulgo breviora, erecta, $5-12 \mu\text{m}$ longa. Conidia ellipsoidia vel obovoidia, basitruncata; 3-septata, pallide-brunnea vel brunnea, magnit. $25-32 \times 10-12 \mu\text{m}$.

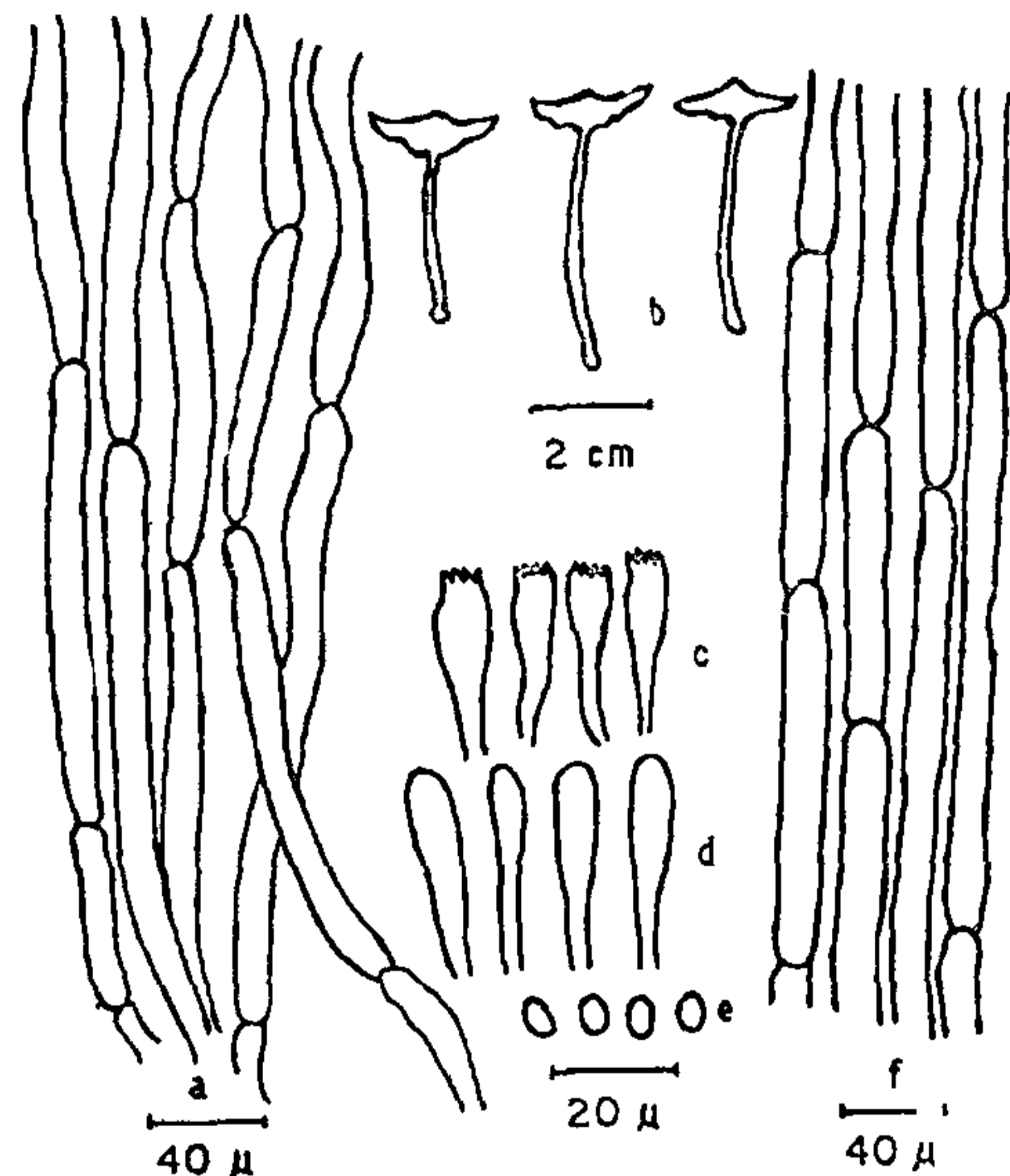


FIG. 1. *Termitomyces microcarpus*. a, Hymenophoral trama; b, Habit scetch; c, Basidia; d, Cystidia; e, Spores; f, Cuticular.

From the above description, the fungus was identified as *Termitomyces microcarpus* (Berk and Br.), Helm. This fungus has been reported from different tropical countries like Ceylone, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Kenya and Tanzania, but has not been recored from India so far (Purakayashta and Chandra¹).

The mycelial culture of *T. microcarpus* was grown in Richard's solution ($\text{KNO}_3-100 \text{ g}$, $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4-5.0 \text{ g}$, $\text{MgSO}_4, 7\text{H}_2\text{O}-2.5 \text{ g}$, sucrose-50 g and distilled water 1000 ml). The crude protein content of dry mycelium was found to be 25.6%.

The authors are grateful to Dr. S. B. Chattopadhyaya, Vice-Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya for his interest in this investigation.

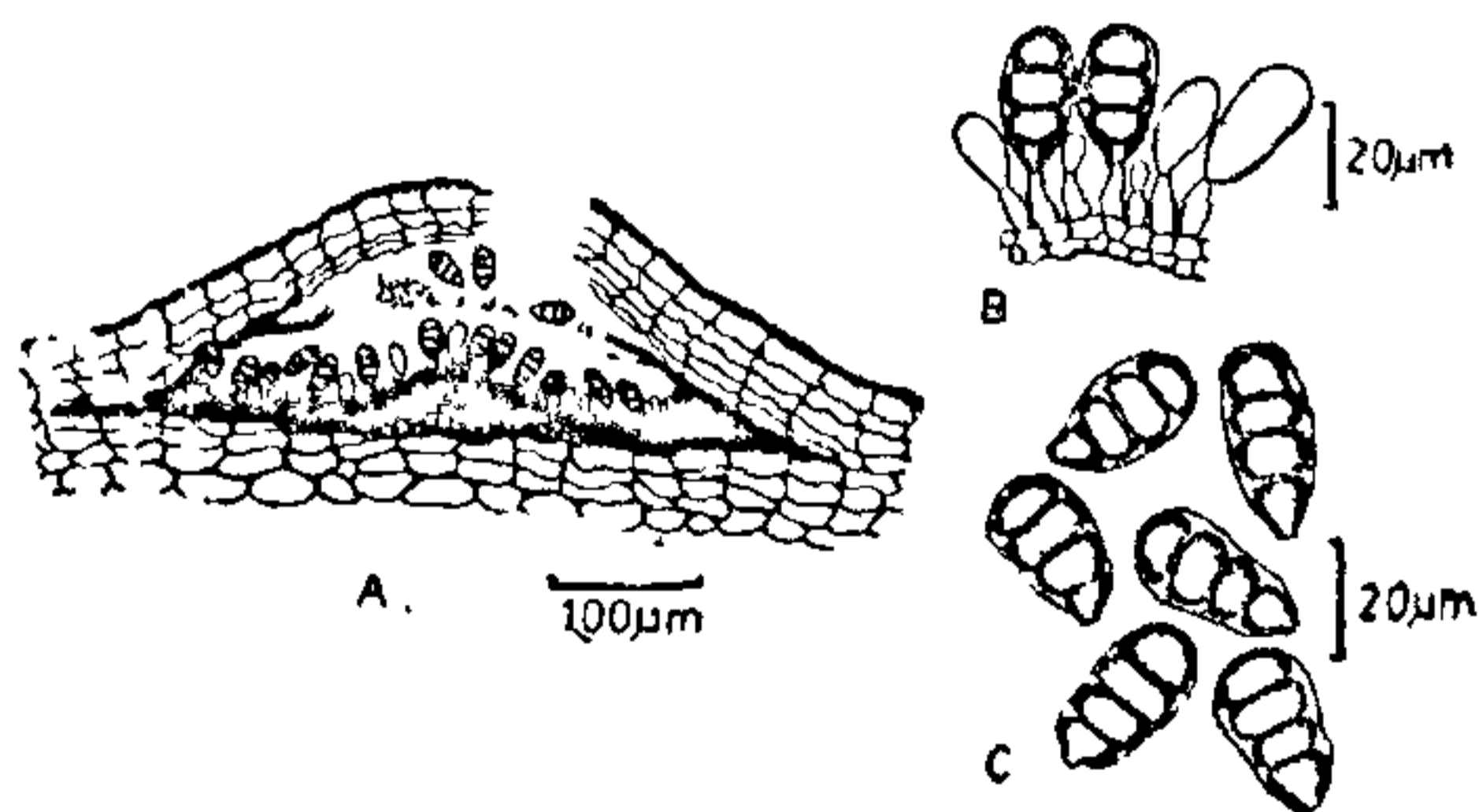


FIG 1. *Stilbospora poonensis* sp. nov. A. V.S. of acervulus. B. Conidiophores with conidia. C. Conidia.

Acervuli immersed in the bark but becoming erumpent, later sub-globose to conical, carbonous, black, shining, solitary, scattered to aggregated, measure $420-525 \times 340-375 \mu\text{m}$. Conidiophores hyaline, erect usually shorter, $5-12 \mu\text{m}$ long. Conidia ellipsoid to