

AN UNDESCRIBED SPECIES OF  
*HETEROCONIUM* PETR. (HYPHOMYCETE)  
FROM SOUTH INDIA

DURING our investigations on the Hyphomycetes of Kerala, an interesting species of the form-genus *Heteroconium* Petrak<sup>4</sup> was collected at Peechi (Trichur, Kerala) growing saprophytically on dead twigs of *Cassia fistula* L. The fungus was studied in detail with respect to its taxonomy and identity. It proved to be distinct after comparative studies with other known species<sup>1-3</sup> including its type species, viz. *H. citharexylis* Petrak<sup>4</sup> in morphological characters and dimensions especially in the length of conidiophores and conidial septation. Hence, it is described here under a new taxon with the following format description.

*Heteroconium indicum* sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Coloniae effusae, fuscae vel atrae, pilosae. Mycelium plerumque superficiale, ex hyphis repentibus, ramosis, septatis, dense reticulatis compositum. Conidiophora macronemata, mononemata, non-ramosa, erecta, recta vel leniter curvata, cylindrica, 2-10 septata, atro-brunneae vel rufo-brunnea, laevia, 45.5-150  $\mu$ m longa, 8-10.5  $\mu$ m crassa. Conidia catenata non-ramosa, recta vel leniter curvata, fusiformia, cylindrica, 1-septata, laevia, pallide-brunnea vel rufo-brunnea, 23-42.5  $\mu$ m longa, 8.5-10.5  $\mu$ m crassa.

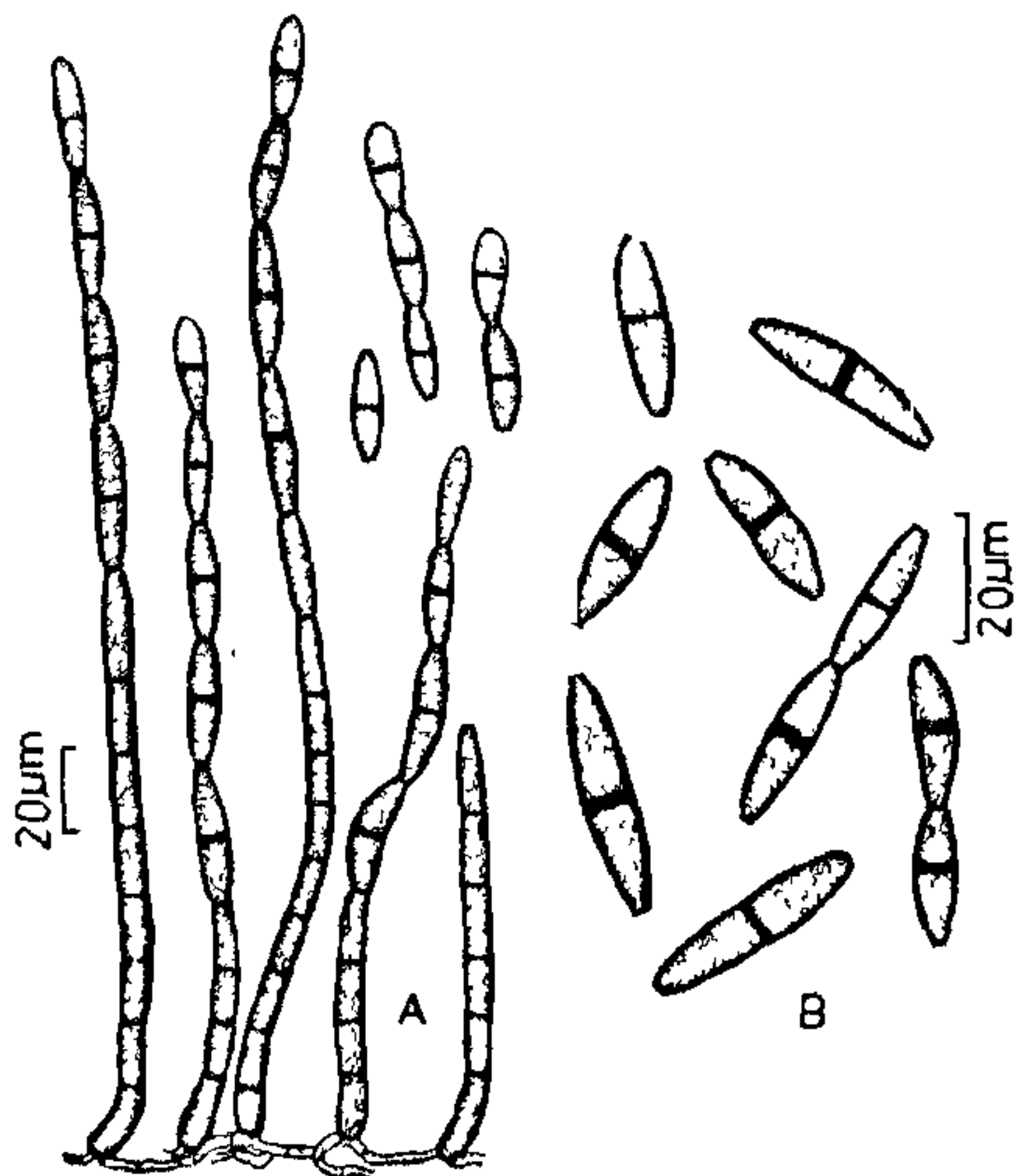


FIG. 1. *Heteroconium indicum* sp. nov. (A) Conidiophores with conidia. (B) Conidia.

Colonies effuse, dark blackish brown to black. Mycelium mostly superficial, forming a spongy mat from which conidiophores develop. Conidiophores

macronematous, mononematous, unbranched, straight or slightly curved, cylindrical, 2-10 septate, mid to dark brown or reddish brown, often darker near the base, smooth, 45.5-150  $\mu$ m long, 8-10.5  $\mu$ m thick. Conidia formed in long unbranched acropetal chains, straight to slightly curved, fusiform or cylindrical, thick-walled, one-septate, brown to reddish brown, smooth-walled, measure 23-42.5  $\times$  8.5-10.5  $\mu$ m.

*Matrix* : On dead twigs of *Cassia fistula* L. (F. Leguminosae) Leg. K.I.M.V. at Malakkappara, Sholayar, Kerala, on 12-3-1977, No. AMH 3830 (*Holotypus*).

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Department of Mycology and Plant Pathology,  
M.A.C.S. Research Institute,  
Pune 411 004,  
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K. I. MANI VARGHESE.  
V. G. RAO.

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OCCURRENCE OF *PODONECTRIA COCCICOLA*  
(ELLIS AND EVERH.) PETCH ON CITRUS  
SCALE INSECTS

MANY species of scale insects have been reported on citrus to cause major damage by sucking the plant sap and resulting in defoliation and drying of twigs. The most important species are : Soft green scale [*Coccus viridis* (Green)], Brown scale (*Saissetia coffeae* (Walk.)), Purple scale (*Lepidosaphes beckii* (Newm.)) and Circular scale [*Chrysomphalus aonidium* (L.)]. An interesting entomogenous fungus was observed on these scale insects feeding on different citrus species such as mandarins, grape fruit, sweet orange, and trifoliate orange. Microscopic examination of the entomogenous fungus revealed it to be a species of *Podonectria*, hitherto undescribed from this country.

Infection by the parasitic fungus was first noticed on crawlers feeding on tender twigs and fruits and became evident by the development of orange coloured sporodochia on the body of infected insects. The sporodochia represented the asexual fruiting bodies of the parasite. Sporodochia grew profusely on crawlers, which first became immobile and subsequently died. It appears that the parasite secreted some toxin which diffused and killed other crawlers which