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A NEW SPECIES OF *PHOMA* FROM INDIAN ALKALINE-POND SOIL

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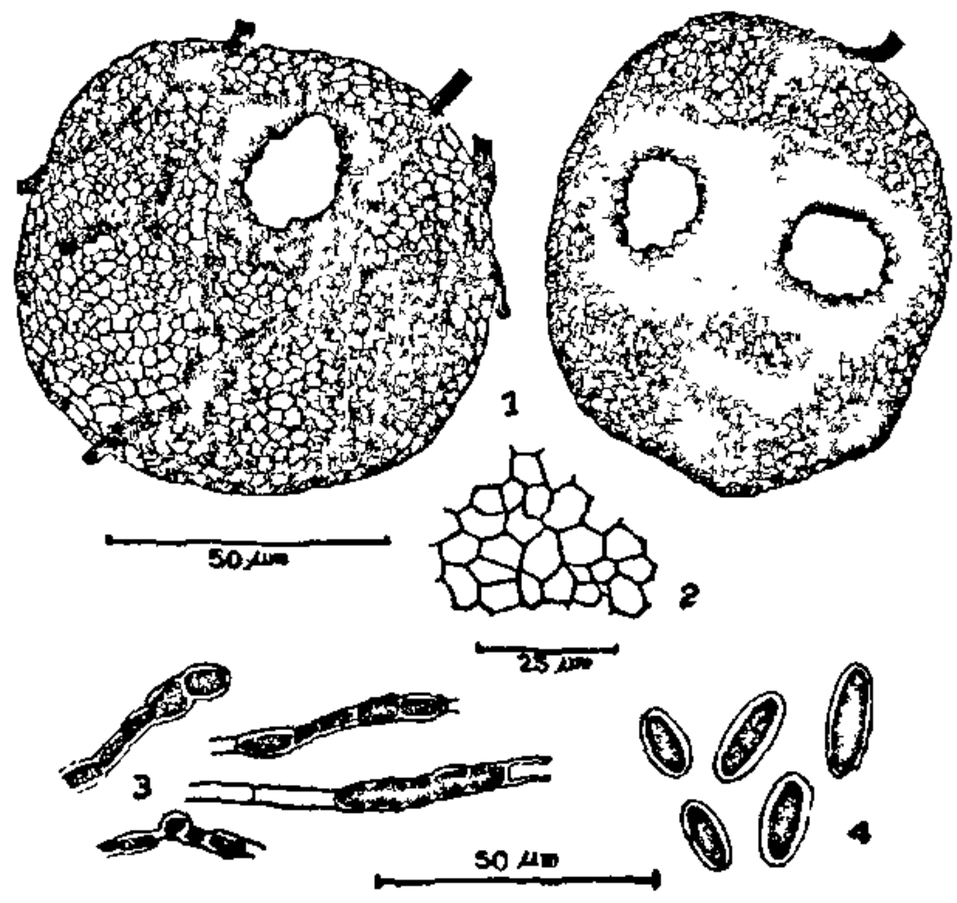
During the course of tax-ecological studies of fungi inhabiting alkaline soil and water, the authors came across a few species of *Phoma*, one of which appeared new and is described here.

Phoma ushtrina sp. nov.

Coloniae planae, in agaro czapekii trade crescentes, post dies 10 ad temperaturam 28 ± 1° C juxque ad 4·5 cm. diam. attingentes; mycelium ex hyphis hyalinis tenuibus septatis plerumque inflatis constitutum; pycnidia abundantia pallide usuqe fusco-brunnea erumpentia, sphaerica vel subsphaerica, ostiolata, 117–533 × 130–572 μm; conidia hyalina ovalia, 2·6–6 × 1·3–3·0 μm, in massis roseolis gelatinosis ejecta,

Hab. e solo alkalino (pH 8·5) isolata, December 1977, ex area Telibagh, Lucknow, India. Typus : Cultura exsiccata in Department of Botany, Lucknow University, Lucknow, India; subcultura in Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, Surrey, England (IMJ 229626).

Colonies flat, growing slow on Czapek's Dox agar attaining a diameter of 4·5 cm in 10 days at 28 ± 1° C.



Figs. 1–4. Fig. 1. Pycnidia. Fig. 2. Pycnidial wall cells. Fig. 3. Swollen and thick walled cells of hyphae. Fig. 4. Conidia.

Mycelium hyaline, slender, septate, cells of most of the hyphae are swollen. Pycnidia abundantly produced, light to dark brown in colour, erumpent, spherical to subspherical, 177–533 μm × 130–572 μm, ostiolate. Conidia hyaline, oval 2·6–6 μm × 1·3–3·0 μm, discharged in pinkish gelatinous mass.

Isolated in December 1977 from alkaline-pond soil (pH 8·5) collected from Telibagh area, Lucknow. Type, in the form of dried culture, deposited in the Department of Botany (Mycology Section), Lucknow University, Lucknow, India. A subculture has also been deposited in Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, Surrey, England, as IMI 229626.

Though the present fungus has some resemblances with *Phoma capitulum* Pawar *et al.*[1], it is distinct from this form in general appearance of the colony, in having abundant swollen hyphal cells and also in shape and size of pycnidia and size of conidia.

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