

A HYPERPARASITE OF *PHYLLACTINIA CORYLEA*, THE POWDERY MILDEW OF MULBERRY

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ONE of the major diseases of mulberry (*Morus alba* L.) in Karnataka State is the "powdery mildew" caused by *Phyllactinia corylea* (Pers.) Karst. which mostly manifests in the conidial stage commonly known as *Ovulariopsis*. In a recent collection of diseased leaves around Bangalore, a hyperparasite infecting the conidiophores and conidia of this fungus was noticed. Hyperparasitism is common in rusts^{1,2} and Monilia-ceous fungi^{3,4} but a mycoparasite of a powdery mildew is rare. Generally the powdery mildews are parasitised by *Ampelomyces quisqualis*⁵. Recently, two hyperparasites, *Alternaria* and *Cladosporium*, have been reported on conidia and mycelia of *Acrosporium dendrophthoae* parasitising *Dendrophthoae falcata*⁶.

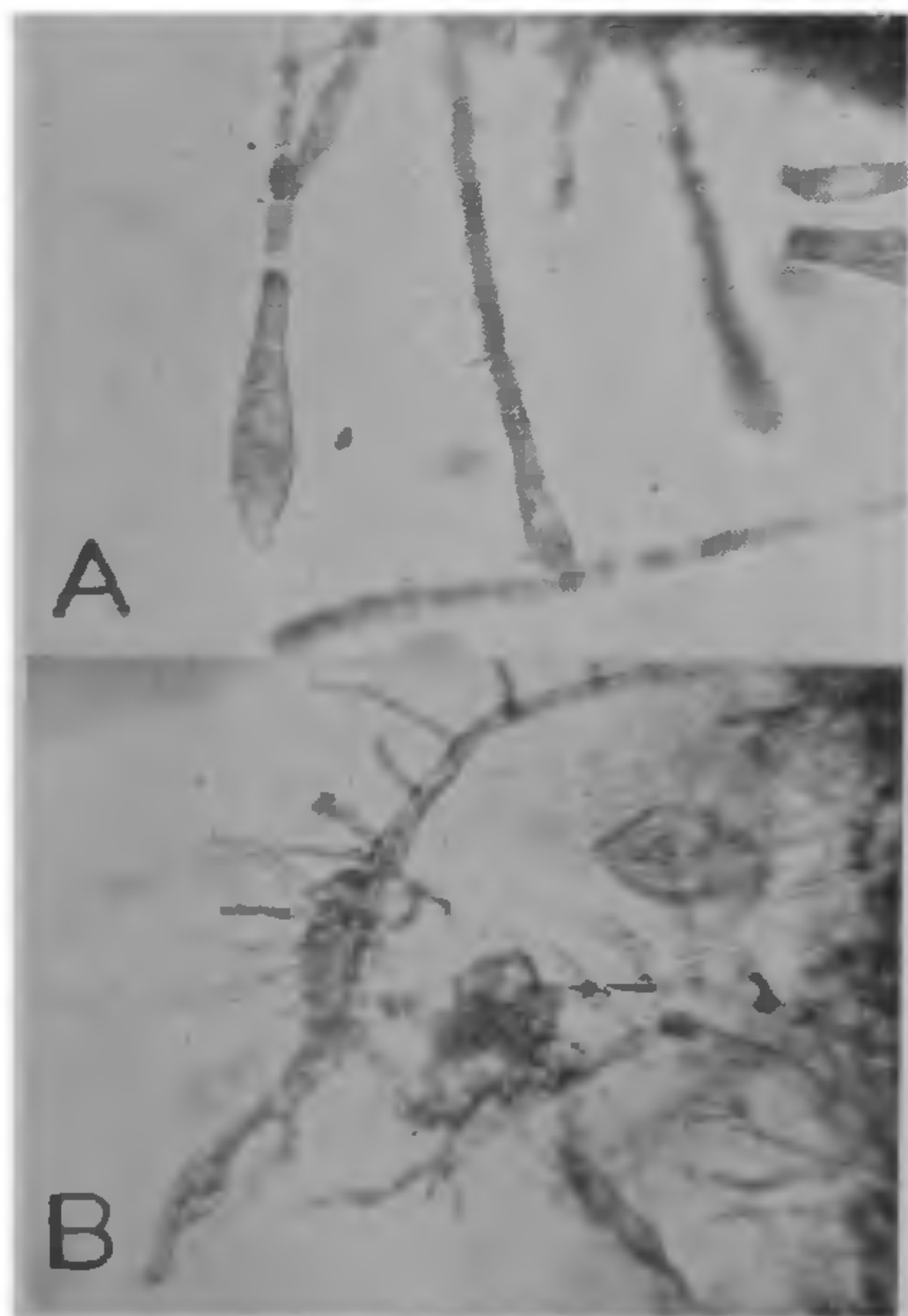


FIG. 1. Conidiophores and conidia of *Phyllactinia corylea* with the hyperparasite *Cladosporium* sp. A. Uninfected conidiophores and conidia of *Phyllactinia corylea* ($\times 450$). B. Conidiophores and conidia of *Phyllactinia corylea* showing the growth of the conidiophores of the hyperparasite ($\times 450$).

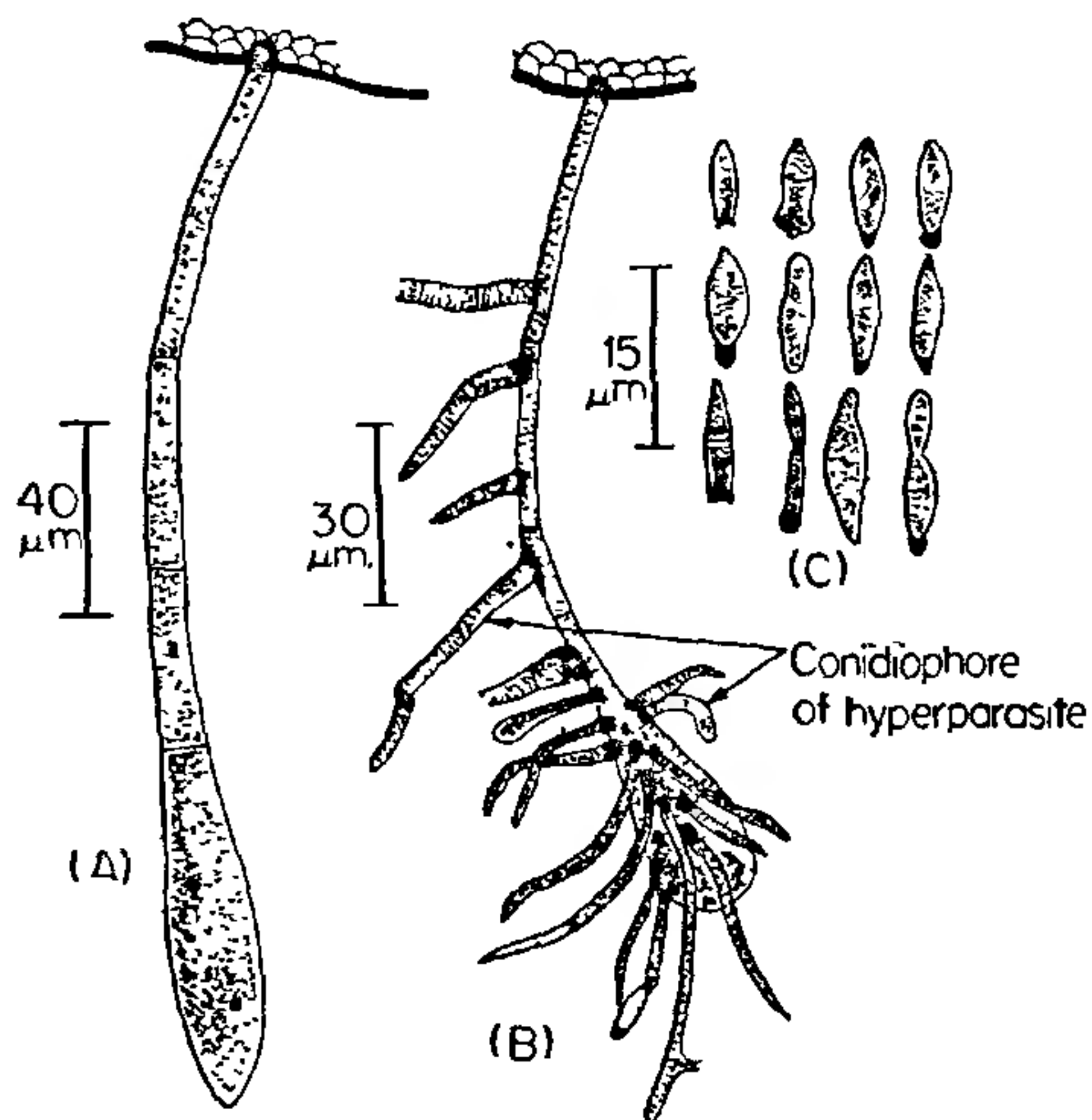


FIG. 2. Conidiophores and conidia of *Phyllactinia corylea* with the hyperparasite *Cladosporium* sp. A. Uninfected conidiophores and conidia of *Phyllactinia corylea*. B. Conidiophores and conidia of *Phyllactinia corylea* showing the growth of the conidiophores of the hyperparasite. C. Conidia of the hyperparasite *Cladosporium* sp.

The present hyperparasite was identified as *Cladosporium* sp. The conidiophores of this Hyphomycetous fungus were found growing from the conidiophores and conidia of *Phyllactinia corylea* (Figs. 1 and 2). The conidiophores measured 11–32–48 μm in length and 2–4–6 μm in breadth. The conidia were dark brown, thick walled, 0–1 septate, oval to variable in shape measuring 7–10–14 \times 4–6–8 μm . A survey of literature shows that this is the first report of *Cladosporium* sp. on the powdery mildew fungus *Phyllactinia corylea*.

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