of spores per ascus, but the latter has much larger (50–65 × 13–17 μm) spores.

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TWO NEW SPECIES OF THE LICHEN GENUS
MEGALOSPORA FROM SOUTH-WEST INDIA

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During our investigations into the lichen flora of
the Western Ghats, South-West India, we encountered
two coriicolous microlichen taxa which on critical
studies were found to be the new species of the genus
Megalospora. The genus Megalospora Mey et Fw.
is represented by three species from the Indian sub-
continent of which two are from Sri Lanka (Ceylon)
and one is from the Nilgiris1.

Chemical studies were carried out by colour tests
and thin layer chromatography2. Specimens referred
in the text are preserved in the lichen unit of the
Ajarekar Mycological Herbarium (AMH).

1. Megalospora isidiza Makhija et Nagarkar sp. nov.
(Figs. 1, 2, 5)

Thallus viridigriseus, verrucosus, epiphloeodes, isidiat-
us, isidia cylindricalis, erectis; apothecia rotundata,
sextula, solitaria, 1–3 mm diametris, disco nigro,
epulisoso convexo, excipulum flavo vel aurantiaco,
hymenium hyalinum, 92–114 μm alta; subhymenium
faluve vel hyalinum, 105–140 μm alta; ascospore
1–2: nai, incolatae, ellipsoidae, 1-septatae, 37–58 ×
12–17 μm.

Thallus greenish gray, verrucose, epiphloeodal,
isidiate; isidia simple, cylindricalis, unbranched, short;
apothecia globose, 1–3 mm in diameter, solitaria, few,
scattered, adnata; discus blue black, K–, epiluso,
convex; exciple pale yellow to light orange, inconspic-
uous at maturity; hymenium hyalinum, 92–114 μm
high, subhymenium pale yellow to hyaline, 105–140 μm
in height; epithecium hyalinum, 1 + blue; paraphyses
simple, unbranched with club-shaped apices; asco-
spores 1–2: nai, hyaline, broadly elliptical, 1-septate,
37–58 × 12–17 μm in size.

Chemistry: Thallus K– yellow, C– K–, P–; no chine
substances are present.

Holotype: Maharashtra, Mahabaleshwar, in moist
evergreen forest, leg. A.V. Prabhu and M. B. Nagarkar,
28 Nov. 1974–74:1820 (AMH). Other specimens ex-
amined: Maharashtra, Mahabaleshwar—73:2946,
74:1773, 1784, 1820, 1821; Karnataka, Kemengundi—
80:9.

Remarks: The present species is distinguished from
the other species of the genus by the isidiate thallus,
adnate, large apothecia with convex, black disc, pale
yellow to orange coloured exciple and small ascospores
(less than 60 μm long).

2. Megalospora verruculosa Makhija et Nagarkar
sp. nov. (Figs. 3, 4, 6)

Thallus flavo-virens, verruculosis, epiphloeodes, non-
issidatus; apothecia rotundata, sessilia, solitaria vel
aggregata, 0.5–2.5 mm diametris, disco ferrugino,
plano vel convexo; excipulum crasso, elevato, nigro,
hymenium hyalinum, 260–310 μm alta; subhymenium
hyalinum, 1 + castis, 60–68 μm alta; ascospore
2–8 nai, incolatae, ovoidae, 1-septatae, 38–80 ×
25–40 μm.
Remarks: This new species is easily distinguished from the closely related species Megalospora papillifera H. Magns by the yellowish green thallus, rust red apothecia with black exciple and hymenium K−.

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NEW RECORDS OF PLANT PARASITIC NEMATODE INFESTATIONS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE IN DECLINE IN TEA PLANTATIONS OF WEST BENGAL, INDIA

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Tea, Camellia sinensis L., is cultivated in subtropical Terai foothills and high hills of different altitudes in the State of West Bengal with an area of about 18,000 hectares. The average yield per hectare has dwindled to 63 kg as against the all-India average of 1,500 kg per hectare. Only four plant parasitic nematodes have so far been recorded on tea from West Bengal and altogether 35 nematodes have been found to be associated with tea in India1,5,7,8.

Here, an intensive survey of plant parasitic nematodes associated with tea was undertaken during May to June 1980 in five plantations, far apart from each other, namely, Chandmani (91.44 m a.m.s.l.), Dagapur (106.68 m a.m.s.l.), Tista-Bazar (914.40 m a.m.s.l.), Happy-Valley (1820-80 m a.m.s.l.), Lebong (1820-20 m a.m.s.l.) and in varying states of decline in Darjeeling district, West Bengal by collecting 80 soil and 40 root samples. Samples of 250 ml soil were processed for nematode extraction by modified Baermann funnel technique, while root samples of 10 g size were treated by maceration and incubation technique using dilute hydrogen peroxide and examined after staining in acid fuchsin-lactophenol. Identification of nematode species was confirmed from Commonwealth Institute of Helminthology, England.