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A MYXOMYCETE, *FULIGO INTERMEDIA* MACBR. ON MOSSES FROM NAINITAL

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GENERALLY the myxomycetes occur in cool, shady, moist places in the woods, on decaying logs, dead leaves, bark pieces of living trees and on other moist

organic matter¹. However, the association of this group of organisms with bryophytes is not frequently known².

The infected specimens of several mosses namely, *Atrichum obtusulum* (C. Muell.) Jaeg, *Pogonatum aloides* Hedw. (Polytrichaceae), *Barbula* sp. (Pottiaceae) and *Leucodon secundus* (Harv.) Mitt. (Leucodontaceae) were collected from Kilbury (altitude 2119 m) and China Peak (alt. 2611 m) Nainital, during rainy season (August 1981). The brilliant yellowish-white colour of the fungus attracted our attention in the field. Only the green tips of the plants were pliable; the rest of the shoots were completely impregnated with a thick coating of yellowish-white *Fuligo* infection. The growth of the mosses seemed to be retarded.

The specimens were examined by Dr. E. Punithalingam of the Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew (England) and the fungus determined as *Fuligo intermedia* Macbr. (= *Fuligo cinerea* var. *ecorticata* G. Lister.) (CMI Herb. numbers: 261541; 261542; 261543; 261544). All the specimens are deposited in the herbarium of Botany Department, D.S.B. College, Kumaun University, Nainital (specimen numbers: A1; P.1; B.2; L.1).

As far as we know, this is the first report of a myxomycete, occurring over the surface of living moss plants. *Fuligo cinerea* (Schw.) Morg. is otherwise reported from dead leaves of *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Sachharum* sp. and rotten cloth pieces from Doiwala, Dehra Dun by Thind and Rehill³.

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