

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A NEW SPECIES OF MYCOVELLOSIELLA RANGEL

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DURING a survey of Tarai belt of North Eastern U.P. a leaf spotting fungus was collected on *Mitragynae parviflora* (Roxb.) Korth. which was found to be an interesting species of *Mycovellosiella*. The same is described and illustrated here.

Mycovellosiella rubiacearum, A. N. Rai et Kamal and Singh sp. nov.

Maculae hypogenosae sed rarissime epigenosae, parvae vel magnae extendentes per totam superficiem folii, pleraeque venis limitatae, nigrantes; coloniae hypophyllosae, effusae, lanosae, nigrantes; mycelium hypharum partim immersum et partim superficiale, angustum, septatum, ramosum, 3.45 μ m. diametro; hyphae repentes angustae, septatae, ramosae, 2.3 μ m. diametro; stromata raro presentia, superficialia vel erumpentia, pseudoparenchymatosa, moderate vel fusce olivacea, 23 μ m. diametro; conidiophori macronematosi quando stromatosi et semimacronematosi quando astromatosi, solitarii vel caespitosi, mononematosi, interdum repentes supra pilos folii, suberecti, flexuosi, usque-4-transverse septati, nonramosi vel ramosi, interdum geniculati, cum parietibus laevibus, progengerantes, pallide vel moderate olivacei, 9.2-59.8 \times 3.45-5.75 μ m; cellulae conidiogenosae inte-

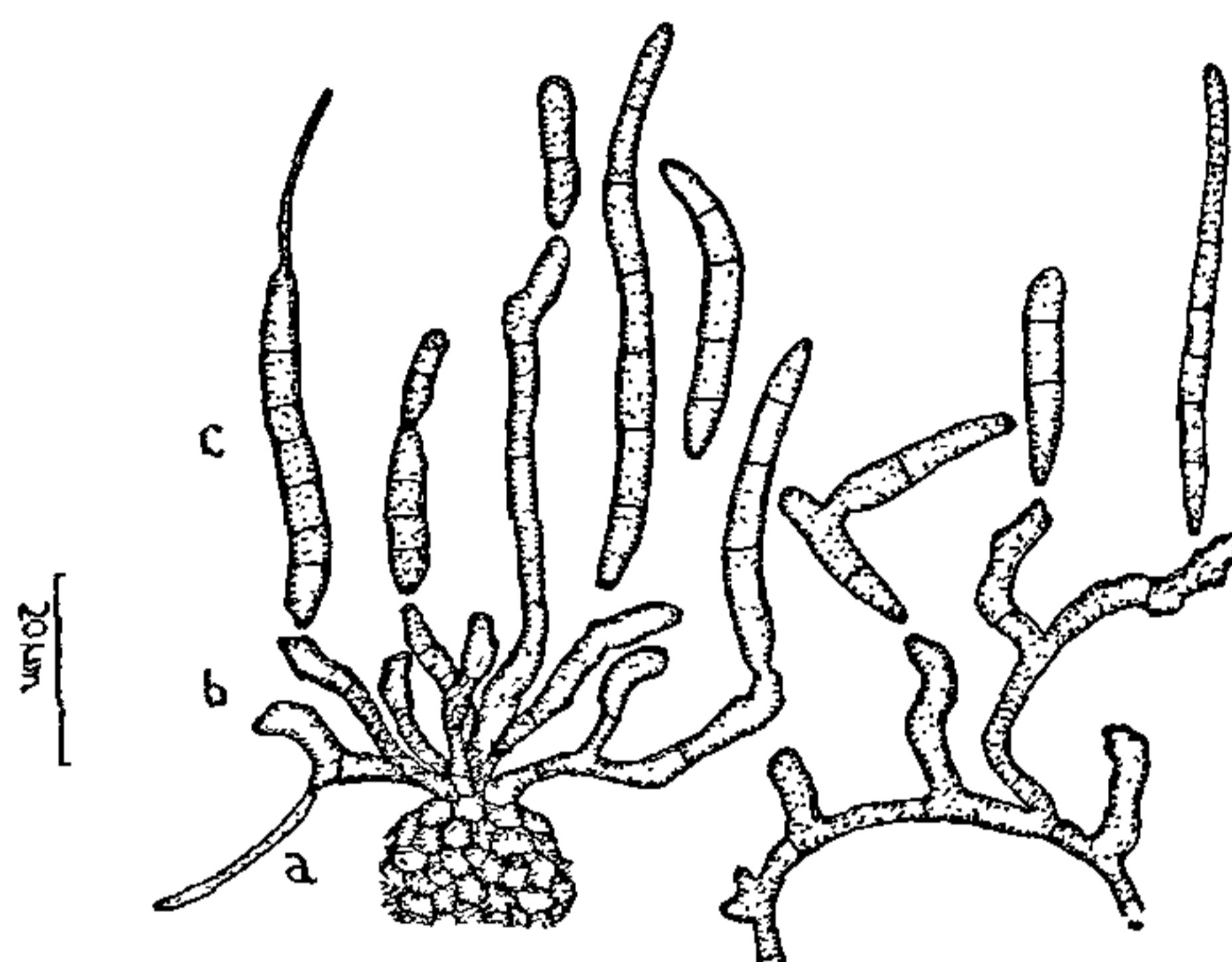


Figure a-c a. Stroma. b. Conidiophores. c. Conidia. gratae, terminales, polyblastae, sympodiales, dilatantes cum parietibus sinuosis, cylindratae, parum cicatricosae; conidia simplicia vel interdum ramosa, solitaria vel catenata (in catenis ramosis), arida, acropleurogenosa, pallide vel moderate olivacea, clavato-cylindrata vel obclavato-cylindrata, cum parietibus laevibus, 1-7 transverse septata, apices subacuti vel obtus et bases obconicotruncatae, hila vix spissa, germinantia, 11.5-59.8 \times 2.3-4.6 μ m.

In foliis vivis *Mitragynae parviflora* (Roxb.) Korth. (Rubiaceae); mense Decembri, 1979; Kataraniaghat (West Baharaich Forest Division); leg A. N. Rai, KR 397, typus IMI 247365.

TABLE I

Species	Conidiophore				Conidia		
	Stroma	Structure	Colour	Size (in μ m)	Structure	Colour & Septation	Size (in μ m)
<i>M. rubiacearum</i> (proposed sp.)	Stroma occasionally present, mid to dark olivaceous, 23 μ m. in diam.	Solitary to caespitose, slightly cicatrized proliferating.	Light to mid olivaceous.	9.2-59.8 \times 3.45-5.75	Simple to rarely ramo conidia, hila slightly thickened, not constricted at septa germinating.	Light to mid olivaceous, 1-7 transversely septate.	11.5-59.8 \times 2.3-4.6
<i>M. mitragynae</i>	Stromata absent.	Solitary, distinctly cicatrized.	—	Very variable in length and upto 4 μ m wide.	Simple distinct conidial scars, slightly constricted at the septa.	Light brown, 2-3 transversely septate.	18-38 \times 3.6-5.4

Spots hypogenous but very rarely epigenous, small to large to cover whole leaf surface, mostly vein limited blackish, colonies hypophyllous, effuse, cottony, blackish; mycelium of hyphae partly immersed and partly superficial, narrow, septate, branched, $3.45 \mu\text{m}$ in diam; repent hyphae narrow, septate, branched $2.3 \mu\text{m}$ in diam; stromata rarely present, superficial or erumpent, pseudoparenchymatous, mid to dark olivaceous, $23 \mu\text{m}$ in diam; conidiophores macronematous when stromatic and semimacronematous when astringent, solitary to caespitose, mononematous, sometimes climbing over leaf hairs, suberect, flexuous, upto-4-transversely septate, unbranched to branched, sometimes geniculate, smooth walled, proliferating, light to mid olivaceous, $9.2-59.8 \times 3.45-5.75 \mu\text{m}$; conidiogenous cells integrated, terminal, polyblastical, sympodial, broadening with sinuous walls, cylindrical, slightly cicatrized; conidia simple to sometimes ramo conidia, solitary to catenate (in unbranched chains), dry, acropleurogenous, light to mid olivaceous, clavate-cylindrical to obclavate-cylindrical, smooth walled, 1-7 transversely septate, apices subacute to obtuse with obconicotruncate bases, hila slightly thickened, germinating, $11.5-59.8 \times 2.3-4.6 \mu\text{m}$.

On living leaves of *Mitragyna parviflora* (Roxb.) Korth. (Rubiaceae); December, 1979; Kataraniaghat (West Baharaich Forest Division); leg. A. N. Rai, KR 397, type, IMI 247365.

A thorough survey of the literature¹⁻⁶ shows that no species of *Mycovellosiella* has ever been validly described on the host in question. However, Kumar⁵ has reported *Mycovellosiella mitragynae* on this host species. For comparison the morphological features of *M. mitragynae* and those of the author's collection are provided in table 1.

A critical look at the table reveals several minor dissimilarities in the author's collection from *M. mitragynae*. In addition the proposed species exhibits marked differences from *M. mitragynae* in occasional presence of stroma; structure, colour, size of conidiophores and conidia and conidial septation.

Thus it is obvious that the author's collection cannot be accommodated with *M. mitragynae* and it rightly calls for description as a new species.

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TWO NEW RECORDS OF WOOD-DECAYING FUNGI FROM INDIA

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IN India the wood-decaying fungi of the order Aphyllophorales have been studied by a number of workers¹. We began to collect the wood-decaying fungi since September 1978 in the Kumaun region and two species viz. *Daedalea ambigua* and *Pycnoporellus fibrillosus* are new reports for India. They were identified with the help of monographs²⁻⁴. Detailed descriptions of the species are based not only on morphological and anatomical characters but also on cultural characters exhibited on malt agar (malt extract—20 g; agar agar—15 g and distilled water—11). The latter are according to the method of Nobles⁵.

Daedalea ambigua Berk., London J. Bot., 4, 305, 1845. Syn: *Daedalea aesculi* (Schw.) Murr., North Amer. Flora, 9, 1-6, 1908. (figures 3, 4 and 6, & 7-14)

Sporophore annual, corky when fresh, rigid on drying; pileus usually sessile, sometimes appearing as substipitate; stipe lateral, creamish-white, thick and short, $4-15 \times 5-25 \times 0.5-2.5 \text{ cm}$; often two adjacent pilei fusing to form a larger pileus; upper surface white, smoky at the base, minutely velvety to glabrous, often zonate towards the margin; margin thin, sterile below; hymenophore poroid, white when fresh, slightly changing colour on drying; pores circular to daedaloid or more or less lamellate, 2-3 per mm, pore walls thick and entire; tubes 2-3 mm long; context white, homogenous, floccose-punky to hard corky, 0.2-1.8 cm thick; hyphal system trimitic; generative hyphae hyaline, thin-walled, branched, $2.5-3.5 \mu\text{m}$ in diameter, clamps found only near the growing margin of the pileus; skeletal hyphae hyaline, thick-walled, rarely branched, septate, $3.0-5.5 \mu\text{m}$ in diameter; binding hyphae hyaline, thick-walled, much branched, $3.0-4.0 \mu\text{m}$ in diameter; basidia clavate, hyaline, cyanophilous, $3.8-6.0 \mu\text{m}$ broad; basidiospores hyaline, cylindrical, smooth, nonamyloid, cyanophilous,