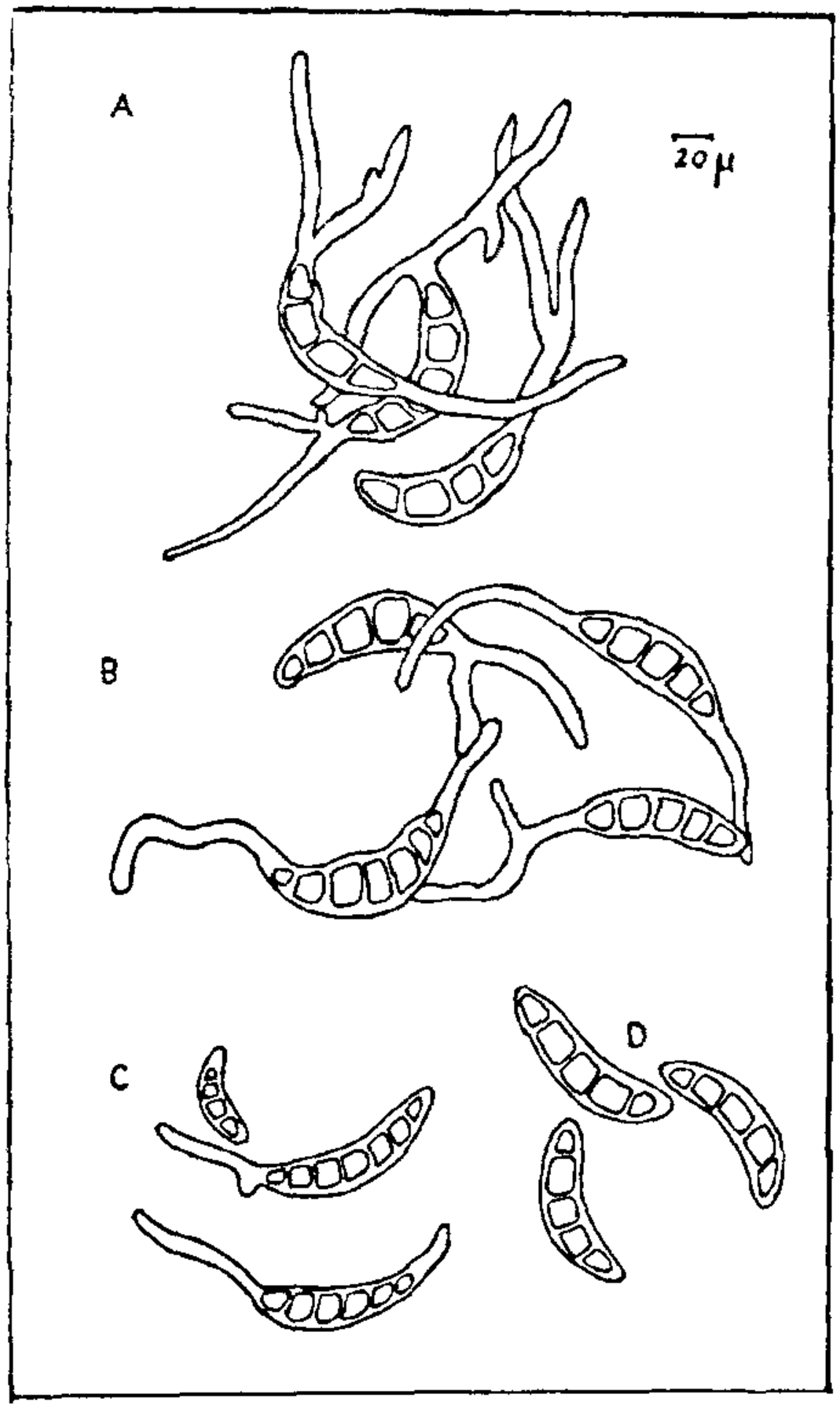

Figure 2 A–D. Effect of ethanol extract of *L. inermis* leaves on germination and germ-tube elongation of *D. oryzae*. **A.** control; **B.** 1:50 dilution; **C.** 1:30 dilution; **D.** 1:20 dilution.

wt.). Hence, the antifungal activity of the *L. inermis* leaf extract can be attributed to the high phenol content. This finding opens up the possible use of the leaf extract on exploring its possibility for use in the control of brown spot of rice.

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NYSSOPSORA SCHEFFLERAE SP. NOV. FROM INDIA

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DURING a mycological survey at Shevaroy hills, Yercaud, Tamil Nadu, *Schefflera stellata* (Gaertn.) Harms, a member of the family, Araliaceae was observed showing rust infection mostly on young leaves. The sori were amphigenous, powdery and blackish brown in colour. Microscopic examination of the infected material revealed that the rust fungus belonged to a species of *Nyssopsora* Arth. The morphological characters of the teliospores particularly the glochidiate spines showing variation in branching and the presence of 3 or 4 germ pores in each teliospore cell warranted consideration of this rust as a new species of *Nyssopsora* and the same is described here.

Nyssopsora schefflerae Ramachar, Bagyanarayana, Subbalakshmi et Hosagoudar sp. nov. (figure 1).

Spermogoniis, aeciis et urediniis ignotis. Teliis amphigeniis, anthracina, subepidermalibus, erumpentis; teliosporis 28–40 × 22–30 μm, tricellulae, turtius cellulae ad basale, cinnamomeo-brunniae vel fuscae. Parietis fuscus 2–3 μm crassus; spinae glochidiatae 6–8, subbrunneae, obtusa vel bi, tri, tetra vel pentafurcatae ad apices, 10–16 μm longa; poris germinationis 3 vel 4; pedicello hyalino vel subbrunneae, 40–70 μm longo, 3–5 μm crossa, persistantae.

Telia amphigenous, charcoal black, 3-celled, two parallel and the third cell at the bottom, 28–40 × 22–30 μm; wall dark brown 2–3 μm thick; spines glochidiate, 6–8 per cell. Pale brown, simple, obtuse to pentafurcate at the apex, 10–16 μm long;

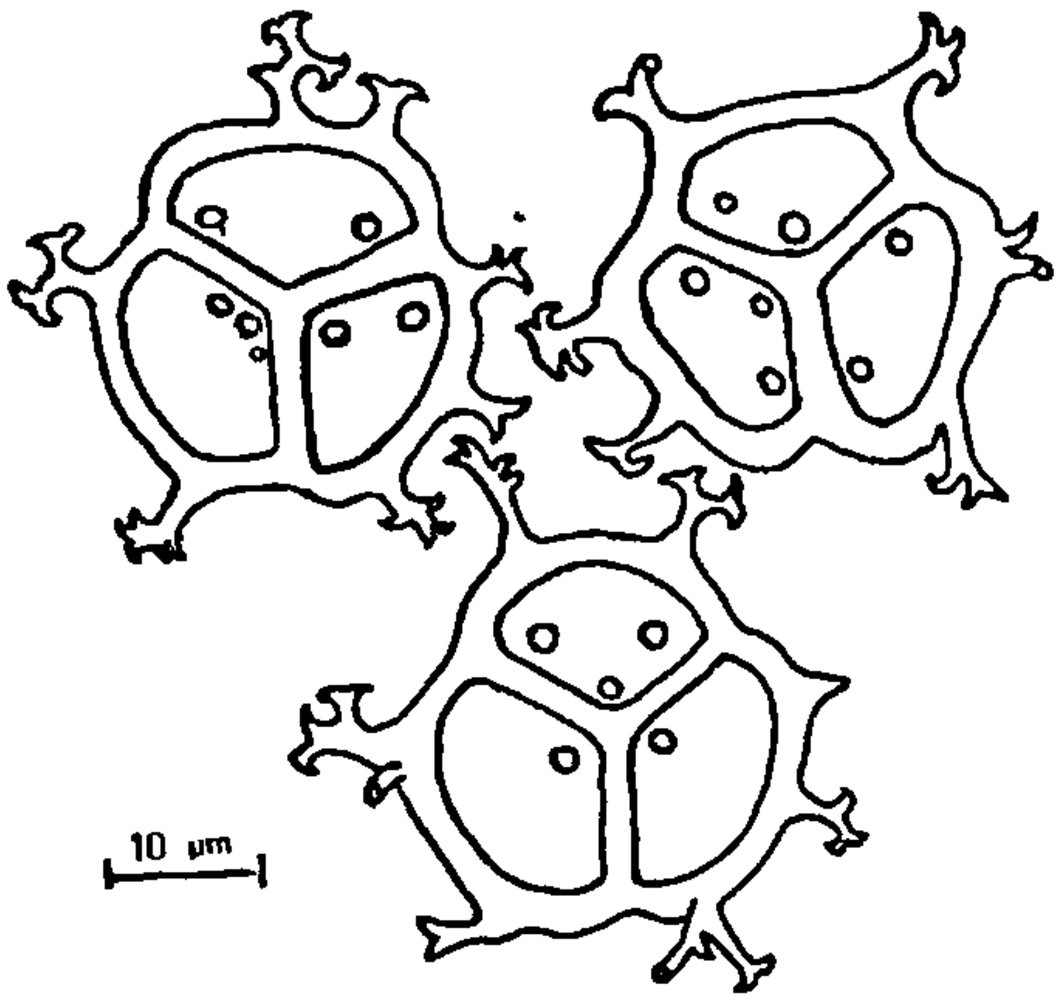

Figure 1. *Nyssopsora schefflerae* Ramachar, Bagyanarayana et Hosagoudar sp. nov. The teliospores showing simple to pentafurcate glochidiate spines and 3 or 4 germ pores in each cell.

germ pores 3 or 4 in each cell; pedicel hyaline to pale brown, 40–70 × 3–5 µm, persistent.

Holotype: In the living leaves of *Schefflera stellata* (Gaertn.) Harms (Araliaceae), near National Orchidarium, Yercaud (Salem District), February 6, 1985, V. B. Hosagoudar BSI/ISV/82143.

The type specimen is deposited in the Botanical Survey of India, Southern Circle, Coimbatore (MH).

According to Cummins and Hiratsuka[1] there are nine species of *Nyssopsora* known so far. Monoson[2] presented a key to these based on the type of branching of the spines on the teliospores which is specific to each species. *N. schefflerae* differs from the previously known species in having simple to pentafurcately branched spinose teliospores. In addition the presence of 3, rarely 4 germ pores in each cell of the teliospore adds to its distinctness.

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ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *ELATOCLADUS PLANA* (FEISTMANTEL) SEWARD 1919, FROM UPPUGUNDURU (A.P.)

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A FRESH collection of plant fossils has been made from Uppugunduru in Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh. Earlier Vagyani[1] reported *Ginkgoites crassipes* (Feistmantel) Seward from this place. A specimen numbered UPG/50186 and closely agreeing with the description of *Elatocladus plana* (Feistmantel) Seward (1919) is described here.

Elatocladus Halle[2] 1913.
Elatocladus plana (Feistmantel) Seward[3], 1919.

The specimen is 4.5 cm long and 3.2 cm broad. Leaves are spirally disposed, spreading in one plane (figure 1). They are attached to the rachis at an angle of 55–60°. Rachis is slender and 0.1 cm thick. Pinnae are linear to lanceolate with entire margins

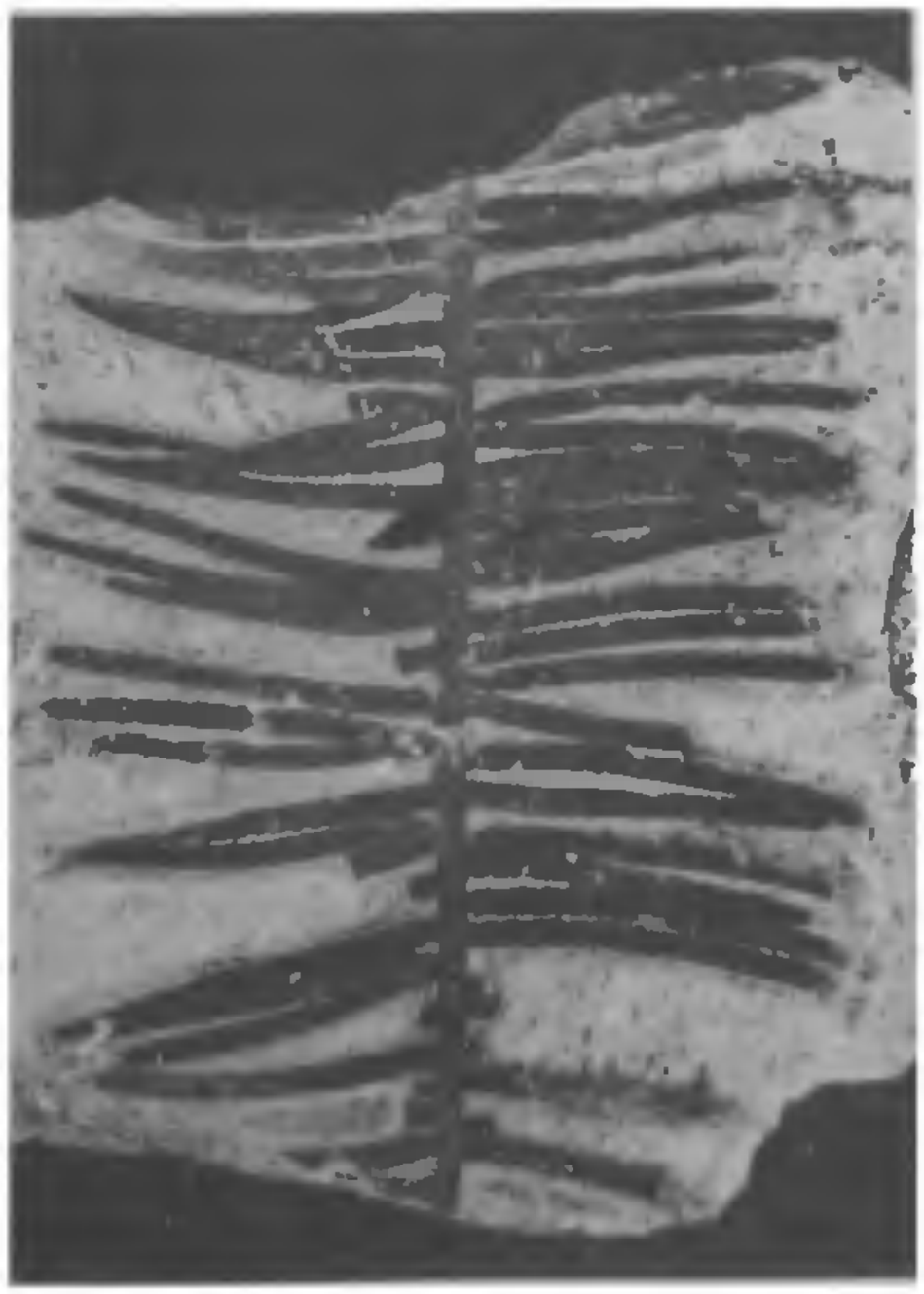

Figure 1. *Elatocladus plana* (Feistm.) Seward (×1.5).