

Figure 2. EPR spectra of a plagioclase from Holenarasipur (frequency, 9.2 GHz; temperature 78 K. (a) Untreated sample, (b) Oxidized at 650°C, (c) reduced at 650°C.

Centre, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for a critical review of the manuscript.

24 July 1989

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A NEW SPECIES OF *SCYTALIDIUM* FROM INDIA

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DURING our studies on litter decomposition of *Tectona grandis* in the forests of Madhya Pradesh a new species of *Scytalidium* was isolated.

On microscopic examination and comparison, the present fungus was found to be distinct from the

three known species of *Scytalidium* in having bigger conidia^{1,2}. Therefore the fungus is described here as a new species of *Scytalidium* from India. The specific epithet of this collection has been given after the name of host plant.

Scytalidium tectonae sp. nov. Soni, Jamaluddin and Rajak

Colonies effuse, dark, blackish brown to black; hyphae mid- to dark-brown, smooth, 5.0–7.5- μ m thick; conidiogenous cells fragmented and forming arthroconidia; integrated, intercalary conidia of two types—hyaline, thin-walled, cylindrical or oblong, unicellular to bicelled, in chains, 5.0–17.5 \times 3.75–5.0 μ m in size; thick-walled, oblong, broader, doliform or broadly ellipsoidal, 0- to 3-septate, 7.5–20.0 \times 3.75–7.5 μ m in size (figure 1).

Coloniae effusae, fuscae ad aterae; cellulae conidiogenae fragmentae et formantes arthroconidia; conidia integra, intercalaria, bityporum; conidia determinata, cylindrica, doliiformia, oblonga vel ellipsoida, hyalina, tenuitunicata, unicellularis ad bicellularis, in catenis 5.0–17.5 \times 3.75–5.0 μ m, conidia crassitunicata, oblongata, doliiformia vel late ellipsoida 0–3-septata, 7.5–20.0 \times 3.75–7.5 μ m.

Culture has been deposited at CMI, Kew, under accession no. IMI 283013 and also in the Regional Forest Research Centre, Jabalpur, India.

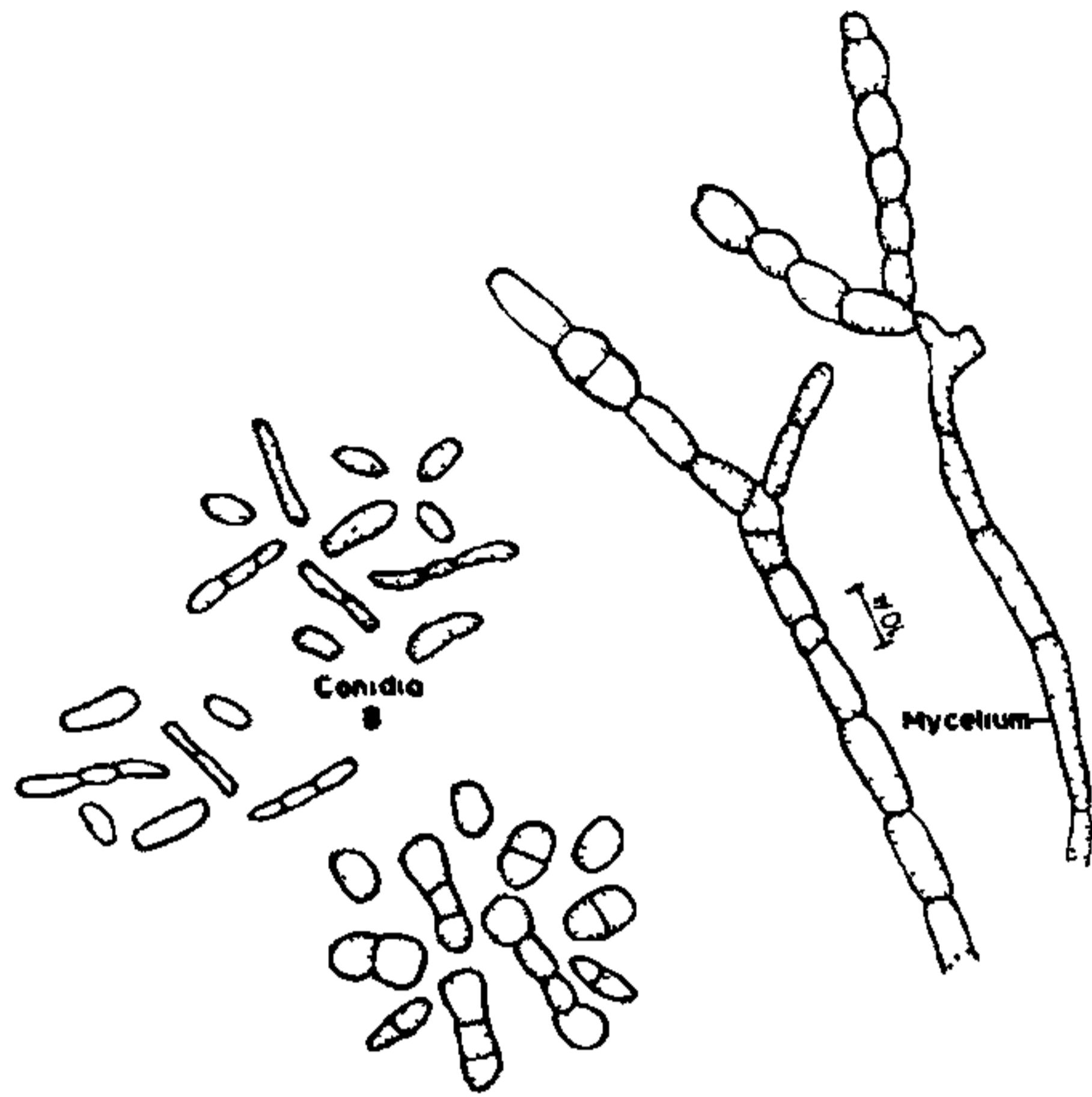


Figure 1. *Scytalidium tectonae*.

Grateful thanks are due to the Director, CMI, Kew, England, for confirmation of the identity of this fungus.

13 June 1988; Revised 10 October 1988

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OCCURRENCE OF WATER-BORNE CONIDIAL FUNGI ON *PINUS ROXBURGHII* NEEDLES

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AQUATIC hyphomycetous fungi, now known as water-borne conidial fungi, predominantly occur on submerged dead leaves of a variety of deciduous dicotyledonous trees^{1,2}, and are absent or very rarely present on conifer needles³. Taxo-ecological work in India indicates that these fungi are unable to colonize submerged conifer needles^{4,5}.

During a study on aquatic hyphomycetous fungi of the Kumaun Himalaya, samples of grey-black

submerged needles of *Pinus roxburghii* from a freshwater stream, the Niglat, were collected from different spots in separate polythene bags. These needles were washed thoroughly under running tap-water and finally rinsed in sterile distilled water to remove extraneous sediments and invertebrates. The leaves were cut into small pieces and incubated in petri dishes containing sterilized stream water at room temperature (15–20°C). On alternate days the needles were examined for the presence of water-borne conidial fungi.

A total of nine species belonging to eight genera of water-borne conidial fungi were observed. Among these, *Lunulospora cymbiformis* Miura and *Triscelophorus monosporus* Ingold were found to be dominant over other species. The conidia of *Clavariopsis aquatica* de Wild., *Lunulospora currula* Ingold, *Flabellospora verticillata* Alasoadura, *Tetrachaetum elegans* Ingold, *Tricladium splendens* Ingold, *Campylospora chaetocladia* Ranzoni and *Alatospora acuminata* Ingold were found to be less common in occurrence.

The occurrence of such a large number of species of these fungi at a time on *P. roxburghii* needles suggests their involvement, hitherto unreported, in the decomposition of *P. roxburghii* needle litter in freshwater habitats.

The authors thank UGC, New Delhi, for financial support.

21 November 1988; Revised 19 January 1989

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