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A new Species of Microsphaera from Hyderabad, India.

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(With one text figure).

The genus *Microsphaera* was erected by Leveille in 1851 for a perithecial fungus having appendages with dichotomously branched tips containing more than one ascus and was designated by the type *M. divaricata* Lev. Recently the author has collected a perithecial fungus on the pods of *Acacia catechu*, Willd. Which is found to belong to the genus *Microsphaera*. Further examination of the fungus revealed that its numerous appendages with dichotomously branched tips appeared to be new features of the species. The fungus is distinct from other known group of *Microsphaera* species specialized on *Leguminosae*, in which perithecia have long and numerous appendages, ranging from 20—70 in number, simple, with once (rarely twice) dichotomously branched tips and 8 spored asci. It is, therefore, considered as a new species and named after Dr. S. Blumer of Zürich. Type specimens are deposited at the Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, England, and at the Herbarium Cryptogamiae Indiae Orientalis of the Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

It is of interest to note that there is a fungus on *Acacia catechu* from the late H. Sydow who distributed it under *Erysiphe polygoni* DC. in his Fungi Exotici exciccati No. 75 without description. Blumer who examined the same fungus tested only the size of the perithecia, and on account of their great size, separated it from the allied *E. polygoni* and placed it as a new species, *E. acaciae* Blumer (1926). There again he did not furnish the complete description of the fungus. Sydow's exsiccati No. 75 had been borrowed from I.A.R.I., New Delhi, and examination of the perithecia revealed that the fungus on *Acacia catechu* is not an *Erysiphe* but belongs to the genus *Microsphaera* Lev. and is further identical in all respects to the fungus collected by the writer in Hyderabad on *Acacia catechu* pods. Thus the name of *Erysiphe polygoni* DC. which was later separated on the large size of its perithecia to *E. acaciae* is now considered invalid because Blumer influenced by the determination of Sydow did not even see that it was not an *Erysiphe* but a *Microsphaera*! Further, *E. acaciae* Blumer is to be considered nomen nudum as there is no validly published description of the fungus. Thus, by an examination of the type material, it is established beyond doubt that the fungus is not an *Erysiphe* as it was labelled.

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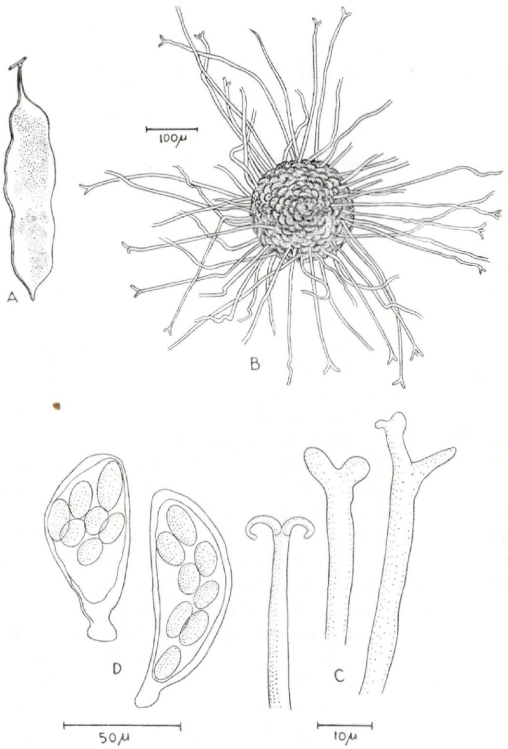

A. Infected pod of *Acacia catechu*. — B. Perithecium with append ages.— C. Branched appendages. — D. Asci with 8 spores.

Microsphaera blumeri sp. nov. Rao, P. N.

Fruiting on the pods forming dark patches. Perithecia dark brown, globose, 153,0—221,0 μ in diameter, clothed with numerous appendages hyaline, varying from 20—70 in number. Tips, once or rarely twice dichotomously branched, straight, spreading, unseptate, measuring 228—532,0×3,0—4,5 μ. Asci numerous (10—15 in number), clavate, base stipitate, 8-spored, 45,0—90,0×30,0—37,5 μ. Ascospores hyaline, or golden yellow, 1—2-seriately arranged, ellipsoidal smooth, 16,5—22,5×10,5—12,9 μ.

On the pods of *Acacia catechu* Willd. (Mimoseae), University Campus, 10—10—1958, Coll. Y. O.U.B. Herb 'Hy' No. 149.

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Microsphaera blumeri spec. nov. Rao, P. N.

Maculae fuscae. Perithecia globosa, 153—221,0 μ diam., vestita appendicibus hyalinis compluribus plerumque 20—70 obtecta. Appendices in apice semel vel raro bis dichotome furcatae, rectae, patentes, continuae, 228,0—532,0 × 3,0—4,5 μ. Asci 10—15, clavati, substipitati, octospori, 45,0—90,9 × 30,0—37,5 μ. Ascosporae 1—2-seriatae, hyalinae vel aureo-luteae, ellipsoideae, leves, 16,5—22,5 × 10,5—12,0 μ.

In fructibus *Acaciae catechu*, Mimosaceae in Campo universitatis, 10 octobris 1958, leg. P. N. Rao. O.U.B. Herb. 'Hy' No. 149.

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Literature.

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ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

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