# A new species of Cercospora on Erythrina lithosperma from coffee estates in Mysore 

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Erythrina lithosperma, locally known as Halwan or Dadap, is grown extensively as a temporary shade in the coffee estates of Mysore. The author in the course of his investigations on the "new malady" of Coffea arabica in Mysore has often collected leaves of Erythrina lithosperma affected by a species of Cercospora. The fungus affects the leaves during June to September and is generally seen in association with an undetermined species of Colletotrichum.

The spots produced by Cercospora are pale greyish to brown and in several instances partial defoliation of the tree was noticed which may be due to the combined effects of both Cercospora and Colletotrichum. The latter forms small roundish yellow spots $2-3 \mathrm{~mm}$, in diameter on the underside of the leaves, these spots are surrounded by a pale green hallow. The spots gradually dry up leaving shot holes.

The Cercospora on E. lithosperma collected in Mysore differs from C. erythrinicola Tharp (Chupp, 1953) in having spores that are shorter and conidiopheres that are longer and are in fascicles upto 15 in number. It differs from other spiecies of Cercospora described on Erythrina spp. namely, C. erythrinae Ellis and Everhart, C. pittierii Sydow and C. tomentosae Hansford ( Chupp , loc. cit.) in having conidia that are hyaline, acicular with a truncate base. The name Cerospora erythrinaelithospermae is proposed for the species occurring locally.

Cercospora erythrinae-lithospermae Agnihothrudu, sp. nov.
Leaf spots irregular greyish when young, turning brown with age; fruiting amphigenous but more on the upper surface, stromata poorly developed, conidiophores in fascicles upto 15 in number, dilute brown below, subhyaline at the top, upto $250 \mu$ long and $4 \mu$ wide multiseptae, straigh or often sinuous, geniculations absent; conidia hyaline, acircular; generally curved in the middle, indistinctly multiseptate, base subacute, tip acute $40-150 \mu$ by $2-3.5 \mu$.

Maculae irregulares, griseae, postea brunneae; caespites amphigeni sed plerumque epiphylli; hypostromate parum evoluto, pseudoparenchymatico; conidiophoris usque ad 15 fasciculatis, ad basin pallide brunneis,
apicem versus subhyalinis, usque $250 \mu$ longis, ca. $4 \mu$ latis, pluriseptatis, saepe plus minusve undulatis; conidia acicularia, hyalina, plus minusve arcuata, indistincte pluriseptata, postice parum, antice magis attenuata, $40-150 \times 2-3.5 \mu$.


Fig. 1. Cercospora erythrinae - lithospermae sp. nov. Agnihothrudu. Conidiophores and Conidia from Herb. T. F. R. No. 2.

On living leaves of Erythrina lithosperma Ossoor Coffee Estate, Saklespur, Hassan District, Mysore State, collected by V. Agnihothrudu, dated 14/6/1964, deposited in the Herbarium Tata-FisonRallis under No. 2 and in the Herbarium of the Madras University Botany Laboratory.

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## References.

Chupp, C., 1953: A Monograph of the Fungus Genus Cercospora. Ithaca, New York, 667 pp.

## ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

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