

A new Species of Coniochaeta from India

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Recently during the mycological investigations of fungi from Marathwada region author came across with some black fungus heavily infecting the dead leaf base (pulvinus) of the *Phoenix sylvestris* Roxb. On critical examination the fungus was found to be species of *Coniochaeta* Sacc. which on comparative morphology and host specificity, is being reported as new to Science. Recently 6 new fungi have been reported on *Phoenix sylvestris* Roxb. by Tilak S. T. & Ramchandra Rao (1966).

Coniochaeta Tilakii sp. nov.

Perithecia gregarious or scattered, superficial or with the base sunken in the substrate, subglobose, slightly pointed above, measuring from $225-300 \times 225-285 \mu$, blackish brown, covered with spreading dark brown pointed hairs. Asci cylindrical to clavate, upto $80-90 = 7-8 \mu$, 8-spored, paraphysate, unitunicate, stalked hyaline, generally the tip is thickened and narrower than the lower ascus. Ascospores brown to dark coloured, uniseriate with a distinct furrow along one narrow side, enclosed in a thin colourless gelatinous sheath, nonseptate, measuring from $11-13 = 6.4-8 \mu$, paraphysis numerous.

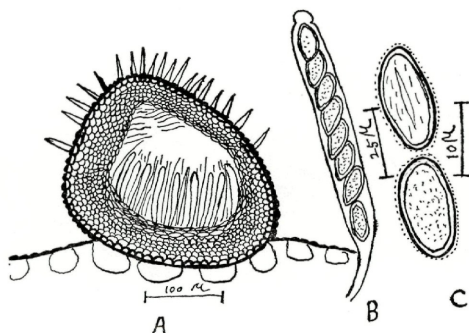


Fig. 1. *Coniochaeta Tilakii* sp. nov. — (a) Section through the ascocarp. — (b) Ascus. — (c) Ascospore.

Collected on dead leaf base (Pulvinus) of *Phoenix sylvestris* Roxb. at Aurad in the month of September 1966 leg. S. B. Kale and deposited in the herbarium of S. C. S. College, Omerga under No. SBK — 250 (Kale type).

Besides being new species the genus is a addition to generic list of India.

Perithecia gregaria vel dispersa, superficialia vel basi tantum plus minusve innata, subglobosa, inferne plus minusve angustata, 225—300 \times 225—285 μ , atro-brunnea, setis obscure brunneis, acuminatis obtecta; asci cylindracei vel clavati 80—90 \times 7—8 μ , octospori, paraphysati, stipitati, antice incrassati et distincte angustati; sporae obscure brunneae, continuae, uniseriatae, longitudinaliter sulco uno, tenui, distincto praeditae, muco tenui, hyalino obvolutae, 11—13 \times 6.4—8 μ ; paraphysus numerosae.

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