

A new species of *Rosenscheldiella* Theiss. & Syd. from India.

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With 1 Fig. in the text.

This rare Dothidiaceous genus is represented by five known species, one of which *R. eugeniae* Petch., was recently reported by Ananthanarayana (1962) from India. This fungus genus was recently collected by the writer from Coorg, Mysore State (India) during October-November 1965 parasitizing leaves of *Cinnamomum zeylanicum* Bl. (Lauraceae), an important condiment widely grown in the State. The infection was confined to lower mature leaves and appeared in the form of tiny tar-spots the entire lower surface. No defoliation was noticed. Young tender leaves remained unaffected.

Only one species of *Rosenscheldiella* Theiss. & Syd. viz. *R. litseae* Syd. has been so far reported on *Litsea glauca* belonging to the family Lauraceae. A comparative study was therefore undertaken between the Coorg collection of *Rosenscheldiella* and *R. litseae* Syd. with the following results.

Table

Species	Ascstromata	Locules	Asci	Ascospores
1. <i>R. litseae</i> Syd.	½—2 mm.	60—88 × 60—75 μ	38—60 × 15—20 μ	15—20 × 4—4.5 μ
2. Coorg collection.	0.5—0.75 mm.	68—88 × 64—76 μ	38—42 × 9.5—10 μ	12—14 × 3.0—4.0 μ

Coorg collection of *Rosenscheldiella* Theiss & Syd. it thus distinct from *R. litseae* Syd. in having significantly smaller ascstromata, much thinner asci and smaller ascospores besides being reported on a new economic host, on the basis of which it is proposed to describe it as a new species with the following Latin diagnosis.

Rosenscheldiella cinnamomi Muthappa sp. nov.

Stromata hypophylla, dispersa, raro plus minusve aggregata, irregulariter angulosa, atra, nitidula, multilocularia, 0.5—0.75 mm; loculi globosi vel subglobosi, 68—88 × 64—76 μ, non ostiolati; pariete 10—20 μ crasso, pseudoparenchymatico, obscuro, intus pallidior, ob cellulas exteriores plus minusve prominulas irregulariter et minutissime verruculoso; asci fasciculati, clavati, postice truncati, antice rotundati,

subsessiles, octospori, aparaphysati, $38-42 \times 9.5-10 \mu$; spores distichae, clavulatae, utrinque vix vel parum attenuatae, hyalinae, circa medium septatae, $12-14 \times 3-4 \mu$.

Ascstromata hypophyllous, scattered, rarely aggregated, polygonal, shining black, multiloculate $0.5-0.75$ mm. Locules globose to subglobose, $68-88 \times 64-76 \mu$, non-ostiolate, surrounded by thick layers of dark pseudoparenchyma with inner cells lighter in colour, $10-20 \mu$ thick with the marginal cells somewhat projecting.

Asci infasciate clavate, bitunicate with truncate base, sub-sessile, octosporus, aparaphysate, $38-42 \times 9.5-10 \mu$. Ascospores biseriatae clavulate, with rounded ends, hyaline, 2-celled, $12-14 \times 3.0-4.0 \mu$.

Incites tar spots on living leaves of *Cinnamomum-zeylanicum* Bl. collected by B. N. M u t h a p p a at Coorg (India) on 25th October 1965, M. A. C. S. Herb. No. 276.

The type is being deposited at Herb. orientales, New Delhi (India), and C. M. I., Kew, England.

This constitutes the 2nd report of this rare genus from India.

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References:

1. Ananthanarayanan S. 1962: Curr. Sci. 31 (12), 517-518.
2. Sydow H. 1921: Ann. Mycol., 19: 306

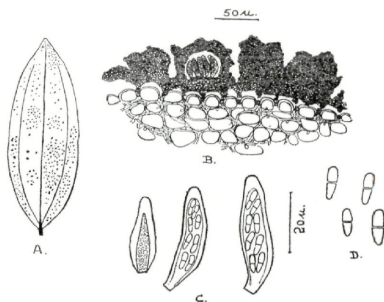


Fig. 1 *Rosenscheldiella cinnamomi*. — A. Habit. — B. Ascstromata. — C. Asci. — D. Ascospores.

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