

A peculiar new Hyphomycete from Cow-dung

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With 2 Textfig.

During the Winter of 1962 colourless fruiting mycelial growth was seen in patches over the surface of cow-dung. Single spore cultures of the fungus were made and on examination the fungus revealed peculiar branching pattern in the fertile region. Failing to find any resemblance with the fungi known, a culture was sent to the Director, Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew. It was examined by Dr. Ellis, who also feels that it is a new taxon. According to him it comes close to *Botrytis* and bears some resemblance with certain

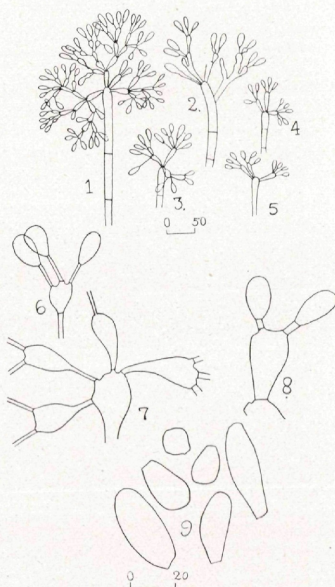


Fig. 1. *Searchomyces coprophiloides* Mehrotra & Mehrotra. — 1–5. Fertile heads at various stages of development. 6. An ultimate obpyriform cell bearing three conidia on long stalks. 7. A penultimate obpyriform cell with four ultimate obpyriform cells showing cut ends of stalks which bear conidia. 8. An ultimate obpyriform cell bearing two conidia on short stalks. 9. Few conidia of varying size.

Botrytis spp. isolated from monocotyledons. However, the peculiar branching pattern of the fertile part of the conidiophore and completely hyaline vegetative and fruiting structures are characters unknown in the genus *Botrytis*. The fungus is described as a new taxon. The name of the genus and the species is based on the fact that the fungus was isolated from dung.

Searchomyces Mehrotra & Mehrotra gen. nov. *Moniliales*; *Moniliaceae*.

Sporophori erecti, simplices hyalini, in apice semel. bis vel ter dichotome vel subverticillatim in cellulas obclavatas vel obpyriformes, superne interdum inaequaliter bi-vel trilobatas transeuntes; conidia in apice cellularum primi, secundi vel tertii ordinis in sterigmatibus nunc brevibus, nunc plus minusve elongatis orta, continua, hyalina nec catenata.

Fungus imperfectus, order Moniliales, family Moniliaceae, hyalosporae. Sporophores erect, simple, hyaline, producing at its tip a number of obpyriform cells, which may bear conidia directly or may produce a series of obpyriform cells, the ultimate cell of the series bearing conidia on long stalks. Conidia hyaline and non-catenate.

Searchomyces coprophiloides Mehrotra & Mehrotra sp. nov. Figs. I—II.

Sporophoris erectis simplicibus hyalinis, remote septatis, ca. 0,235—4,5 mm altis, in apice cellulis 3—6 obclavatis, 30,2—67,8 μ longis superne 11,3—16,9 μ , inferne 2,8—8,4 μ tantum latis praeditis; cellulis illis nunc statim conidia, nunc iterum cellulas tales semel, bis vel ter gignentibus, superioribus gradatim minoribus, ultimis denique



Fig. II. *Searchomyces coprophiloides* Mehrotra & Mehrotra. — Photomicrograph of a large fertile head ($\times 500$).

etiam conidia gerentibus; conidiis obelavatis, obpyriformibus vel raro fere ellipsoideis, continuis, hyalinis, rectis, raro inaequilateris, antice late rotundatis, postice plus minusve attenuatis et truncatis, $10-30/10-15\ \mu$, plerumque $17,5-22,5\ \mu$ longis, $10-12,5$ latis, sterigmatibus quoad longitudinem variabilibus, $7,5-30\ \mu$ longis insidentibus.

Sporophores erect, simple, septate, $235\ \mu - 4,5\ \text{mm}$ in height, producing at its tip 3—6 obpyriform cells, these cells $30,2-67,8\ \mu$ in length, $11,3-16,9\ \mu$ in width at the proximal end and $2,8-8,4\ \mu$ at the distal end. These distal cells may directly bear conidia or may produce a series of obpyriform cells, the cells of the subsequent series gradually getting smaller than those of the previous ones, the ultimate cells of the series then bearing clavate conidia with a flat base, $10-30 \times 10-15\ \mu$ mostly $17,5-22,5 \times 10-12,5$ on short or long stalks, $7,5-30\ \mu$ in length.

Type: Culture isolated from cow dung at Allahabad, India, Dec. 1962; deposited in culture collection, Botany Deptt., University of Allahabad under No. IF-21 and at Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew under IMI No. 91832.

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