

Coemansia aciculifera Linder var. suhagensis var. nov. from India*

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(With 1 Fig. in the text.)

A perusal of the contemporary literature reveals that so far about 16 species (Hesseltine, 1955) have been reported in the genus *Coemansia*. In India to date, only three species, viz., *C. erecta* Bainier (Rugmini, 1956) *C. reversa* van Tieghem and Le Monnier (Agnihotrudu, V., 1957) and *C. ceylonensis* Linder (Prasad, R., 1966) are known. The present paper deals with an isolate which resembles in all the essential characters with *C. aciculifera* in Linder's (1943) key to the genera and species of the Kickxellaceae. It differs, however, in the presence of furcate conidiophores which have never been previously reported in this species. Septation varying from 4—9, mostly 7 with smaller sporocladia and much smaller sporocladial stipe is another feature deserving attention. This isolate is, therefore, being named in view of the new characters detailed above as a new variety, *C. aciculifera* var. *suhagensis*, named after the place of its origin.

Coemansia aciculifera var. **suhagensis** var. nov. Mehrotra (B. R.) and Kakkar (R. K.).

Caespituli in "oat meal agar lutei", tarde evoluti; conidiophora usque ad 1389 μ longa, 5.5—12 μ lata, recta, simplicia, remote septata, superne anguloso-ramosa, sporocladiiis terminata; stipite sporocladiorum e 1—3 cellulis composito, 12.2—25 \times 3.3—6.6 μ plerumque 22 \times 5.5 μ ; sporocladia 16.6—39.6 \times 3.3—5.5 μ , plerumque 25.3 \times 4.4 μ , 4—9-plerumque 7-septata; cellula terminalis, sterilis acuminata et plus minusve recurvata; phialides ovoideae, 3.3—5.5 \times 1.75—2.2 μ , plerumque 4.4 \times 2.2 μ ; conidia in cumulo flavida, anguste fusioidea, utrinque attenuata et acuminata, recta 13.2—16.5 \times 1.1—1.75 μ , plerumque 14.3 \times 1.75 μ .

Colonies growing restrictedly on oat meal agar, bright yellow in colour. Conidiophores upto 1389 μ long, 5.5—12.1 μ in diameter, erect, simple, furcate, distantly septate; the upper fertile part angled at the point of attachment of the sporocladia and becoming somewhat zig-zag.

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Stipe of sporocladia 1—3 celled, $12.2-25 \times 3.3-6.6 \mu$ average $22 \times 5.5 \mu$, the older ones tending to proliferate and to produce an additional stipe and sporocladium; sporocladia $16.5-39.6 \times 3.3-5.5 \mu$ average $25.3 \times 4.4 \mu$, 4—9 septate, mostly (7) septate, the terminal cell sterile, tapering, sharply recurved and beak-like; phialides ovoid, in pairs, $3.3-5.5 \times 1.75-2.2 \mu$, average $4.4 \times 2.2 \mu$. Conidia light yellow in

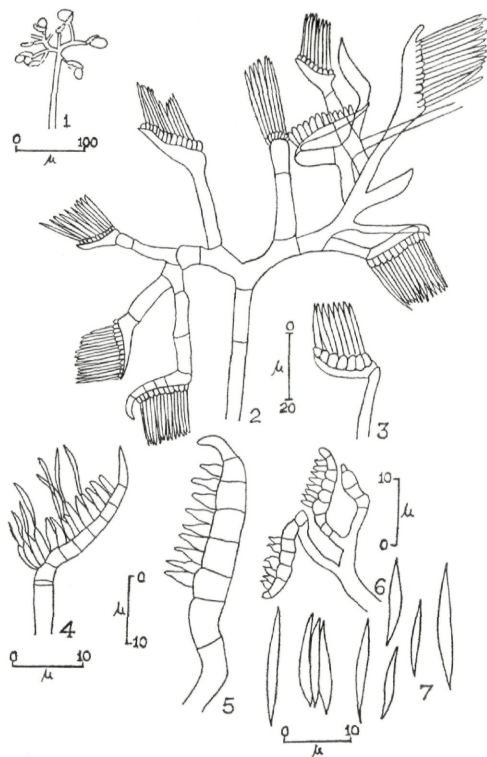


Fig. 1. — 1—7 *Coemansia aciculifera* Linder var. *suhagensis* var. nov. — 1. Upper portion of a mature conidiophore under L. P. with conidia immersed under water drops. 2. Upper portion of a mature conidiophore magnified, showing the branching pattern. 3. Sporocladium under L. P. 4. Sporocladium magnified. 5. Sporocladium with ovoid phialides. 6. Apical portion of a conidiophore bearing young sporocladia. 7. Conidia.

mass, tapering at both ends, acicular, immersed under water drops at maturity, $13.2-16.5 \times 1.1-1.75 \mu$, average $14.3 \times 1.75 \mu$.

Slide preparations and culture have been deposited in the Culture Collection of Botany Department, University of Allahabad under No. M—100. Isolated from the red soil, pH 7.5 of Suhagi (M. P.).

A c k n o w l e d g e m e n t s.

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