

The Genus *Truncatella* in India

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The genus *Truncatella* was erected by STEYART (1949). SERVAZZI (1954) criticized the idea to separate *Truncatella* and *Pestalotiopsis* from *Pestalotia*. GUBA (1955) rejected the separation on the basis of number and colour of cells. Van der AA (personal communication) considers *Truncatella* as synonymous to *Pestalotia*. SUTTON (1969), however, accepted the separation on the basis of the number of coloured cells. The tendency in recent taxonomic studies is to treat the number of septa as a character subordinate in importance to the developmental features of conidia and conidiophores (HUGHES, 1953; ELLIS, 1960; SUTTON, 1964; BHATT & KENDRICK, 1968; AINSWORTH, SPARROW & SUSSMAN, 1973).

Variability in number of septa is an accepted feature of most of the fungi imperfecti, but few genera do display consistency in septation as in *Pestalotiopsis*, *Truncatella* and *Monochaetia* which constantly are 2, 3 and 4 septate respectively.

In case of *Pestalotia*, the stromatoid mycelium ruptures the host epidermis, producing conidiophores and conidia on the surface in air; the fructification is apothecoid, while in case of *Truncatella* and *Pestalotiopsis* the fructification is acervular or pycnidial and the conidia are produced in subcutaneous receptacles. Ostiolation of the epidermis occurs only when the conidia are released. In *Pestalotiopsis* the number of coloured cells is three and the endogenous appendage is simple or branched, whereas, in case of *Truncatella* the number of coloured cells is two and the endogenous appendage is unbranched (STEYART, 1955, 1956).

The author has collected material of *Truncatella* near Akola (India) and later Dr. E. MORDUE (CMI, Kew, England) confirmed that the fungus represents a new species of that genus.

The fungus did not correspond closely with any material deposited in Herb. IML. The species differs from *Truncatella truncata* (LÉV.) STEYART (= *Pestalotia truncata* LÉV.) and *T. ramulosa* (Van BAYME et al.) STEYART (= *Pestalotia ramulosa* Van BAYME et al.), (BREWER, 1958). The latter species is now considered a synonym of *T. truncata* (LÉV.) STEYART (DOMSCH & GAMS, 1972).

Truncatella wangikarii spec. nov. (Fig. 1)

Fructificatio subcutanea, brunnea, pycnidioformis vel acervulata, plusminusve globosa vel oblonga, $152-346 \times 90-272 \mu\text{m}$; primum in textura hospitis submersa, demum epidermem dirumpens et conidiorum massa atrobrunnea exposita. Conidia et cellulae conidiogenae primum in muco. Conidia quadricellulares, cellulae duae mediae pallide brunneae, interdum ad septum parum constrictae; cellula apicalis minuta in conidiis vetustioribus et interdum bene evoluta in conidiis juvenibus, ad extremem apicalem setuliferam rotundata, hyalina; cellula basalis endogena, non ramosa. Cellulae duae extremae sine cytoplasmate, setulae 1-4 apicales paragracescentes hyalinae, simplices vel ramosae, interdum setulae longitudine conidium aequantes vel superantes. Conidia (setula excepta) $13.5-21.8 \times 4.5-6.5 \mu\text{m}$. Setula usque ad $26 \mu\text{m}$ longa. Pedicellis

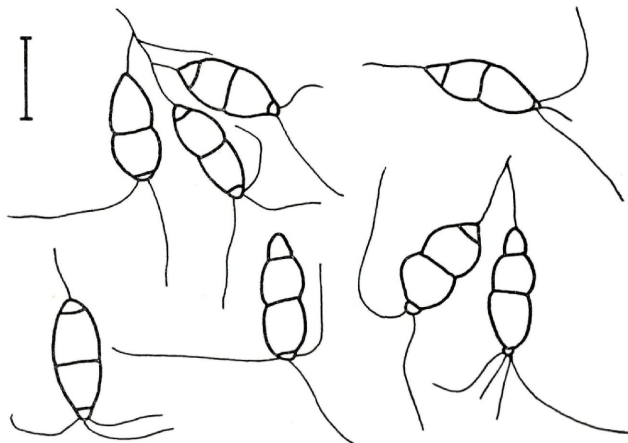


Fig. 1. *Truncatella wangikarii* SOMANI (type): conidia (scale = $10 \mu\text{m}$)

simplices vel ramosae, $8-15 \times 1.5-2 \mu\text{m}$. Fungus pigmentum rubro-brunneum procreans in agaroavena et sporogenus in agaro-avena et agaro-zea. In ramunculi, emortui *Clerodendri enermis* (L.) GAERTN. (Verbenaceae). Typus lectus a R. B. SOMANI ad locum hortum Collegii Agriculturalis, Akola, mense Septembri, anni 1975, et positus in herbario IMI, sub numero 198376.

Fructification subepidermal, brown, pycnidial or acervular, more or less globose or oblong, $152-346 \times 90-272 \mu\text{m}$ in size. In initial stages submerged in the host tissue and later breaking off the epidermis and exposing the dark brown mass of conidia. Conidia and conidiogenous cells initially in mucilage. Conidium 4-celled, middle two cells pale brown and in some cases slightly constricted at the septum. Conidia measure (without setulae) $13.5-21.8 \times 4.5-6.5 \mu\text{m}$. Conidiophores simple or branched $8-15 \times 1.5-2 \mu\text{m}$. Apical cell very small in older conidia and sometimes well developed in young conidia, rounded at the apex where 1-4 thin, slender, hyaline

setulae are borne. Basal cell hyaline, tapering at the basal end. Apical setulae are simple but sometimes branched and in some cases the setulae are equal or more in length to that of conidia (up to 26 μ m).

The fungus produces a reddish brown pigment on oat meal agar and sporulates well on oat meal agar and corn meal agar respectively.

Habitat. — On drying twigs of *Clerodendron inerme* (L.) GAERTN. (Verbenaceae), in garden.

Material. — INDIA: Akola, Agricultural College, IX. 1975, leg. R. B. SOMANI (IMI 198376, holotype).

This species has been named after Prof. P. D. WANGIKAR, College of Agriculture, Akola (India), in due respect for his contribution in the field of Mycology and Plant Pathology.

According to STEYART (1949, 1955) all species of *Truncatella* so far known are confined to gymnospermic host plants in temperate zones. *T. wangikarii*, however, is the first report on tropical angiosperms.

Acknowledgements

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