

***Sarcodon atroviridis* – A stipitate Hydnum new to India**

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Abstract. – *Sarcodon atroviridis* (MORGAN) BANKER, a stipitate hydnum, is recorded for the first time from India. Colour terminology used is that of Methuen's Handbook of Colour (KORNERUP & WANSCHER, 1967). The collection cited is deposited at the Herbarium of the Botany Department (CALI), University of Calicut, Kerala, India. Duplicate material is at the University of Michigan Herbarium (MICH), Ann Arbor, USA.

Description

Sarcodon atroviridis (MORGAN) BANKER, Mem. Torr. Bot. Club. 12: 148 (1906).

Pileus 3.2–7.5 cm broad, convex to plane with or without a slight depression in the centre; surface smoke brown (4F2) when young with a white margin up to 5 mm wide, becoming sepia brown (5F4) when mature; dry, finely fibrillose, glabrous; margin circular or irregular, incurved, fertile. Underside of the pileus yellowish white (4A2) becoming clay buff to fawn. – Spines 3–4 mm long, smaller (1–2 mm) near the margin. – Context thick, up to 7 mm, smoke brown (4F2), dull white when young. – Stipe 3.6–5 cm × 0.6–1.5 cm, central to slightly eccentric, stuffed to hollow, smoke brown (4F2) to pale brown. Spines up to the stipe but not decurrent. – Spore deposit sepia (4F4).

Spores 7.5–9.2 µm, globose to subglobose, coarsely tuberculate. – Basidia 30–50 × 7.5–10 µm, clavate, with basal clamp connections, 2–4-spored; sterigmata up to 7.5 µm long. – Cystidia absent. – Pileal context made up of 6–10 µm wide, thin walled, branched, septate, hyaline hyphae with clamp connections. Context of the spines similar but hyphae narrower, 4.5–5.5 µm wide. – Pileal surface filamentous, not differentiated from the underlying context; hyphae without pigment encrustation.

After drying, the specimens assume a dull olive green colour which is not shown by fresh specimens.

On ground, among decaying litter, solitary to gregarious, Botanic Garden, Calicut University campus, Kerala, India, 3rd July 1984, coll. K. M. LEELAVATHY (CALI, F205).

Sarcodon atroviridis is known chiefly from North America. MAAS-GEESTERANUS (1971) put it along with *S. conchyliatus* and *S. thwaitesii* in his section *Virescentes*, as species whose context dries deep olive green. COKER & BEERS (1951) have given a detailed description of their collection of the species from North America. MAAS-GEESTERANUS (1971) also provided a good description of LLOYD's collection of the fungus from Japan. As the description of our material agrees well both with the description of the North American and Japanese specimens we refer them to this species. So far, only one species of *Sarcodon*, i. e. *S. scabrosus* (Fr.) P. KARST. has been reported from India (THIND & KHERA, 1975).

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