

A NEW PATHOGENIC SPECIES OF GENUS *CURVULARIA*

A SERIOUS leafspot disease of *Typha* sp. was observed at Allahabad in February 1960. The healthy leaves became chloronemic, turned pale yellow and ultimately developed light brown lesions. Isolations from the diseased foliage consistently yielded a species of *Curvularia* in culture. Two months later a very closely resembling species was isolated from the leaflets of *Cycas rumphii*, which also manifested almost similar symptoms on the host. Morphological studies revealed that the two organisms were absolutely identical. They differed from the known forms and had the following characters:

Conidiophores light brown, simple, unbranched, straight or bent, lateral or terminal, highly geniculate near the tip (Fig. 1), length



FIG. 1. Showing the conidia and conidiophores of *Curvularia verruculosa* sp. nov., $\times 680$.

variable, $3-4.2 \mu$ broad; Conidia straight, fusiform or curved, brown, three-septate, no con-

striction of the point of septation. Third cell from the base bigger than others and sometimes curved. Basal cell hyaline while the rest are brown. Wall of the conidia very rough and verruculose; $24.18 \times 11.96 \mu$ ($20.8-26.0 \times 10.6-12.8 \mu$).

Curvularia verruculosa spec. nov.—Conidiophori pallide brunnei, recti vel flexi, alte geniculati prope apicem, longitudinis variabilis, $3-4.2 \mu$ lati. Conidia insidentia ad apicem fere in simili plano efformantia catervam, recta, fusiformia vel curvata, 3-septata, septis latis, constrictione nulla ad septa. Cellula tertia a basi paulo maior, cellulis brunneis. Parietes conidiorum distincte verruculosi; cellula basalis monstrat punctum unionis ad basim, $20.8-26.0 \times 10.6-12.8 \mu$ (medietate $24.18 \times 11.96 \mu$). In foliis *Typhae*, sp. et *Cycadis rumphii*.

On account of the presence of three-septate conidia, this species can easily be placed in the Lunata group. The detailed morphology of the fungus does not agree with any of the species of *Curvularia*¹⁻³ incorporated in the above group. The present isolate shows some resemblance with *C. trifolii* but can easily be distinguished from that species on account of the following peculiarities: (i) The conidial wall is rough and verruculose. (ii) The width of the conidiophore is lesser than in *C. trifolii*. (iii) The third cell from the base of the conidia of *C. trifolii* is darker in colour while the third cell of the present species is concolourous with the apical cell and the second cell from the base. (iv) The size of the conidia is smaller than in *C. trifolii*.

Due to these differences and verruculose nature of the conidial wall this species is designated as *Curvularia verruculosa* sp. nov.

The culture and herbarium specimens are deposited in Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew. Dr. Ellis of that Institute strongly feels that due to verruculose nature of the conidial wall this must be a new species.

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