

**A NEW SPECIES OF *PESTALOTIA* ON  
THE LEAVES OF *PHOENIX*  
*RUPICOLA* ANDER.**

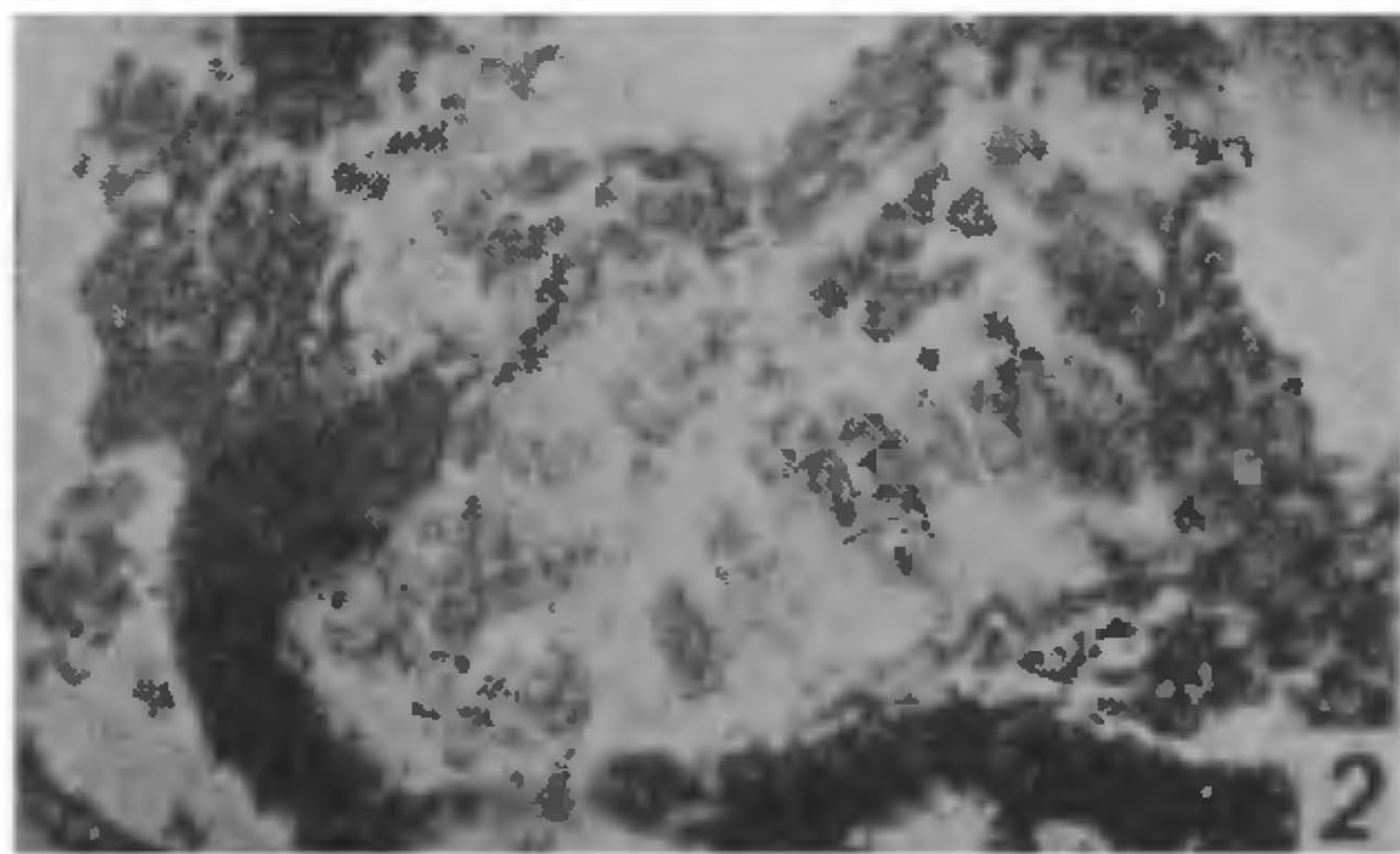
In August 1967 the leaflets of *Phoenix rupicola* growing in various gardens of Allahabad started turning pearl gray. The infection started from the tip portion and proceeded towards the base (Fig. 1). Within few days it spread to a major portion of the lamina and assumed pallid mouse gray or pale olive gray colour. Diseased part was clearly separated from the healthy region by a prominent hair brown or fuscous brown narrow band. Longitudinal

tearing of the diseased leaflets started from the tip portion after the infection covered nearly half of the leaflet. Finally the infected portion dried up and occasionally it got separated from the healthy part. Isolations from the diseased regions consistently resulted in a species of *Pestalotia*.

Detailed morphological studies carried out on the present species of *Pestalotia* revealed it to be distinct from other known species of the genus. Agarwal et al. (1959) reported *P. palmarum* occurring on *Phoenix sylvestris* at Jabalpur. The morphological characters of the present species differed from the above species also and thus it is being designated as *Pestalotia phoenicicola* sp. nov.

**MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERS OF THE FUNGUS**

*Pestalotia Phoenicicola* sp. nov.—Acervuli scattered, subepidermal, small, black, subglobose or lenticular,  $80.2-128.5\mu$  (Fig. 2); conidia clavate-fusiform, 5-celled, generally erect, slightly constricted at septa,  $20.4-24.6 \times 6.2-8.2\mu$ ; 3 intermediate cells yellow brown, 2 exterior cells hyaline or dilute yellow (Fig. 3), apical cell conic bearing 3 rarely 2 or 4 setulæ (Fig. 4); setulæ unbranched



**FIGS. 1-4.** Fig. 1. Photograph of diseased leaf. Fig. 2. Microphotograph of section of an acervulus,  $\times 525$ . Fig. 3. Microphotograph of conidia,  $\times 400$ . Fig. 4. Microphotograph of a conidium showing setulæ,  $\times 625$ .

(very rarely branched),  $8.2-22.4\mu$ ; basal cell tapering into a pedicel, upto  $5.2\mu$  long.

Hyphæ hyaline, branched,  $2.1-4.2\mu$  in diameter.

*Latin Translation*

*Pestalotia phœnicicola* sp. nov.—Acervuli dispersi, subepidermales, nigri, subglobosi vel lenticulares;  $80.2-128.5\mu$ ; conidia clavato-fusiformia, vulgo erecta, 5-cellularia, paulum ad septa constricta,  $20.4-24.6 \times 6.2-8.2\mu$ ; cellulæ intermediæ luteo-brunnæ, quarum duæ, exteriores hyalinæ vel dilute luteæ; cellula apicalis conica, ornata 3, rarius 2 vel 4, setulis simplicibus (rarius ramosis),  $8.2-22.4\mu$ ; cellula basalis fastigata in pedicellum, ad  $5.2\mu$  longit. Hyphæ hyalinæ, ramosæ,  $2.1-4.2\mu$  diam.

Parasitice insidet follis *Phoenix rupicola* in Alfred Park, ad Allahabad, mense August 1967, leg S.C. Typus positus in CMI ad Hortum Kewensem subnumero IMI 110651.

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