

## ON *SPICULARIA TERRESTRIS* TIMONIN

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*Spicularia terrestris* was first described by Timonin in 1940, from an isolation from Canadian soils. Timonin's (1940, p. 314) description of the fungus was as follows: "Colonies on potato dextrose agar slow spreading, consisting mostly of submerged mycelium and aerial conidiophores; surface velvety in appearance, dark coffee-brown to fuscous (Ridgway, Plate XLVI); reverse black-brown. In rapidly growing colonies the hyphæ near the margin showing a yellow tint. Mycelium branched, sparsely septate with numerous terminal and intercalary dark olive-brown chlamydo-spores. Conidiophores arise from submerged or aerial mycelium, at the point of origin produces 1 to 2 rhizoid-like hyphæ; erect, slightly tapering towards apex, unbranched, septate, dark brown up to upper septum, smooth, up to  $450\ \mu$  long. At the apex, which is slightly inflated, bearing a whorl (up to 12) of club-shaped sterigmata-like cells. Sterigmata are unbranched, non-septate and irregularly swollen at the apex covered with numerous papillæ. Sterigma are  $16$  to  $18\ \mu$  long,  $3$  to  $4.5\ \mu$  wide at the base, and the swollen part up to  $8\ \mu$  thick. Conidia borne singly on each papilla, oblong-ovate, two-celled, slightly constricted at the septum; lower cell often bearing remains of papilla; light brown to fuscous, smooth,  $6-9 \times 3-5\ \mu$ ".

*Spicularia* Fuckel as typified by *S. icterus* Fuckel (Fuckel, 1870) belongs to the Dematiaceæ-amerosporeæ and Timonin (1940) emended the generic diagnosis of *Spicularia* in order to accommodate his didymospored fungus in that genus. The validity of Timonin's emendment of Fuckel's genus (to the exclusion of its type, *S. icterus*) and his assignment of his fungus to *Spicularia* have rightly been questioned recently by Morris (1955) who found it necessary to keep Timonin's fungus and Fuckel's fungus in separate genera, since it had not been shown that Fuckel's fungus had didymospores and not amerospores. Indeed, type material of Fuckel's fungus is not available and, under the circumstances, Fuckel's description and figures have to be relied on entirely. It must be emphasised here that emendment of a genus to the exclusion of its type such as has been offered by Timonin (1940) is not warranted under the Rules. Accordingly, Morris (1955) proposed a new genus, *Umbellula* to accommodate *Spicularia terrestris* and named it *Umbellula terrestris* (Timonin) Morris. Morris (1955) characterised his new genus as follows: "Stalks of conidiophores simple, or sometimes

branched, especially in old cultures, erect, septate, dark, bearing at tip an umbelliform cluster of branchlets, each branchlet ending in a vesicular swelling on which conidia are borne singly on spicules, later proliferating at tip; conidia fuliginous, 1-septate". Morris placed his genus in the Dematiaceæ-Macronemeæ-Didymosporæ.

Recently, I reported this fungus from the Nilgiris (Southern India) as *Umbellula terrestris* (Subramanian, 1956).

However, the genus *Pseudobotrytis* Krzemieniewska and Badura recently described (Krzemieniewska and Badura, 1954) appears to antedate *Umbellula* Morris (1955) and would, therefore, have priority over the latter. Krzemieniewska and Badura's diagnosis of their new genus is as follows: "Conidiophores dark with transverse septa, on the top radially branched. The tips of the branchlets headlike swollen, covered with warts on which are seated dark, two-celled conidia. This genus belongs to the family Dematiaceæ, subfamily Phæodidymæ, group Cordanea, with one genus Cordana, from which it differs by the radial branching on the top of the conidiophore as well as by the way in which the conidia are attached. This last feature approached it to the genus Botrytis from which the name is derived" (Krzemieniewska and Badura, 1954, p. 774). Their description of the type species *P. fusca* K. and B. is as follows: "From the top of the dark-brown, in its upper part brighter coloured straight conidiophore (150-300 by 3.0  $\mu$ ), which shows numerous septa, there start radially almost colourless branchlets 11.5-18.2 by 2.5-4.5  $\mu$ , ending in small heads that are 5.2  $\mu$  in diameter. On these heads covered with distinct warts are seated two-celled, dark-brown, spindle-shaped conidia 6.0-8.3 by 3.0-3.5  $\mu$ " (Krzemieniewska and Badura, 1954, p. 774).

A comparison of the description and figures of *Pseudobotrytis fusca* K. and B. and of *Umbellula terrestris* (Timonin) Morris ( $\equiv$  *Spicularia terrestris* Timonin) shows that both the fungi are identical and congeneric. Since, of the two generic names, *Pseudobotrytis* and *Umbellula*, the former has priority and since Timonin's specific epithet appears to be the earliest applied to the fungus under discussion, I propose the following new combination:

***Pseudobotrytis terrestris* (Timonin) Subramanian comb. nov.**

- $\equiv$  *Spicularia terrestris* Timonin, 1940, *Canad. J. Res.*, C, 18: 314.
- $\equiv$  *Umbellula terrestris* (Timonin) Morris, 1955, *Mycologia*, 47: 602.
- $\equiv$  *Pseudobotrytis fusca* Krzemieniewska and Badura, 1954, *Acta Soc. bot. Poloniae*, 23: 774.

*Umbellula* Morris (1955) may accordingly be considered a synonym of *Pseudobotrytis* Krzemieniewska and Badura (1954).

#### SUMMARY

*Spicularia terrestris* Timonin is not congeneric with *S. icterus* Fuckel, the type species of *Spicularia* Fuckel. Morris (1955) proposed a new genus *Umbellula* to accommodate it and named it *Umbellula terrestris* (Timonin) Morris. However, the fungus is identical with *Pseudobotrytis fusca* K. and B. (the type species of the genus *Pseudobotrytis* K. and B.). Since *Pseudobotrytis* (1954) antedates *Umbellula* (1955) and since Timonin's specific epithet appears to be the earliest applied to the fungus, the new combination, *Pseudobotrytis terrestris* (Timonin) Subramanian is proposed. *Umbellula* Morris is reduced to synonymy with *Pseudobotrytis* K. and B.

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