HYPOXYLON TRUNCATUM (SCHW. EX FR.) MILLER VAR. POUCEANUM (BERK. ET COOKE) MILLER FROM MYSORE

In the course of investigations on the 'die back' of coffee in Mysore State, the author, on several occasions, observed a species of Hypoxylon growing on the dead twigs of the coffee bush. The same species was also collected on the dead branches of shade trees, particularly species of Ficus growing in the coffee estates. We have no knowledge of the pathogenicity of this fungus either on coffee or ancillary shade trees. The following is a brief description of a composite collection assigned to Hypoxylon truncatum var. pouceanum.

Hypoxylon truncatum (Schw. ex Fr.) Miller var. pouceanum (Berk. et Cooke) Miller1 (= Hypoxylon pouceanum Berk. et Cooke,

Grevillea, 11: 130, 1883; = Nummularia urceolata Rehm., Phil. J. Sci., 8: 187, 1913) (Figs. 1, 2 and 3).

Stromata rather variable, erumpent, pulvinate, measuring up to 5 mm in diameter, at first slate-grey in colour, later the stroma turns light brown and gradually to black, carbonous;

Figs. 1–3. Hypoxylon truncatum (Schw. ex Fr.) Miller var. pouceanum (Berk. et Cooke) Miller on dead twigs of coffee. Figs. 1–2. Asci, ascospores and paraphysis. Fig. 3. Ascospores.

perithecial elevations very evident, up to 15 perithecia were seen in a group on the stroma, ostiola typically annulate, the disc being mostly 400 μ wide. (300–750) μ, perithecia semi-globose, up to 1 mm in diameter; cylindric, 60–90 μ by 6–7 μ with a stipe which is about 40 μ long, ascospores eight, diagonally uniseriate, inaequilaterally elliptic with obtuse ends, dark brown 10–15 by 4–5 μ paraphyses numerous filiform.

The author is grateful to the Divisional Manager, Fertilizer and Pesticides Division, Rallis India Limited and The Special Coffee Research Association for their encouragement and facilities given.

Rallis India Limited, V. AGNITHOTHRU, P.O. Box No. 68, Bangalore-1, October 20, 1964.