SHORT SCIENTIFIC NOTES

Microfossil Study of the Coal of Newton-Chikli near Parasia, M.P.

THE coal macerated for the study of microfossils described here was collected by one of us (B. S. Trivedi) in 1970 from Newton-Chikli coal mines situated about 3 km north-west of Parasia, Chhindwara, M.P.

Mostly microspores and megaspores could be observed in the coal. Cuticles could also be easily made out in the macerated samples as they were visible to the naked eye. Some of the microspores obtained from the coal samples are *Striatiopodocarpoidetes*, *Cyclogranisporites*, *Pityosporites*, *Lugisporis*, *Allsporites*, *Parasaccites*, *Punctatisporites*, *Retusotrilites*, *Cirratriradites*. Some *Cyathiaceous* microspores have also been recovered. Among megaspore *triletes* *Dijkstraea*, *Talchirella* and very few *Duosporites* have been recovered. Well preserved cuticular fragments belonging to *Glossopteris* and *Gangamopteris*, and tracheal elements, perhaps belonging to Gymnosperms or allied texa, have also been found.

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Phoma exigua from Grassland Soil of Jabalpur

WHILE studying the soil mycoflora of grassland soils of Jabalpur, the authors encountered a *Phoma* sp. which was later identified as *Phoma exigua* Desm. Its characters are as described below :

Colonies on potato-dextrose agar growing moderately, more or less flat, consisting of dense irregularly branched septate submerged hyphae with pycnidia embedded on upper surface. Pycnidia brownish-black, produced slowly but densely forming greyish-brown patches on substrate, sub-globose to pyriform, 95·0–145·0 μ × 90·0–132·0 μ. Conidia elliptical, straight or slightly curved, 4·2–9·3 μ × 2·3–3·3 μ.

This fungus is not of common occurrence in soil. The first record from soil of its two form species, *P. exigua* f. *exigua* and *P. exigua* f. *foveata*, the causal organisms of potato gangrene disease, is from England and Scotland by Malcolmson and Gray[1]. Khan and Logan[2] isolated *P. exigua* f. *foveata* from soil using potato tuber with block of wood as a bait. So far as known to the authors it has not been reported from India either on any host or from soil.

The type culture has been deposited in the herbarium I.M.I. No. 155726.

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Jabalpur, M.P., *November* 21, 1971.

1. Malcolmson, J. F. and Gray, E. G., *Ann. appl. Biol.*, 1968, **68**, 77.
2. Khan, A. A. and Logan, C., *Eur. Potato J.*, 1968, **11**, 77.

Addition to the Record of Host Plants of *Stephanitis typicus* Distant

The lace wing bug *Stephanitis typicus* Distant is polyphagous, recorded from banana, cardamom, hedychium, turmeric, languas camphor, sweetsop, pineapple, red oil palm, jack tree and coconut. Besides being a pest on coconut foliage, it has been recently reported to transmit the pathogen, probably a virus or a virus-like body, involved in the root(wilt) disease of the palm, which is a challenging problem. Unsuitability of coconut leaves in this area for detailed trials on transmission channelled our efforts to screen all alternate host plants in order to hit at an ideal indicator secondary host plant and breed a pathogen-free culture of the vector. Laboratory trials on breeding the insect on known food plants brought out that it completed its life-cycle on jack seedlings (*Artocarpus integrifolia*), without producing any disease symptoms. Search for new host plants resulted in locating broods of the insect on cultivated colocasia (*Alocasia indica* Schott) and East Indian Arrowroot (*Curcuma angustifolia* Roxb.) in a diseased tract in Kerala. They are now being used to rear the insects.

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