

RP. 335

NOTE ON THE OBSERVATION OF THE FUNGUS *GONGRONELLA BUTLERI* (LINDN.)  
PEYRONEL AND DALVESCO IN COCONUT ROOT

WHILE examining the longitudinal sections of coconut roots in connection with the investigations on the root (wilt) disease, it was observed that the vascular tissue of the coconut root contained sporangia-like bodies (Fig. 1). Attempts were made

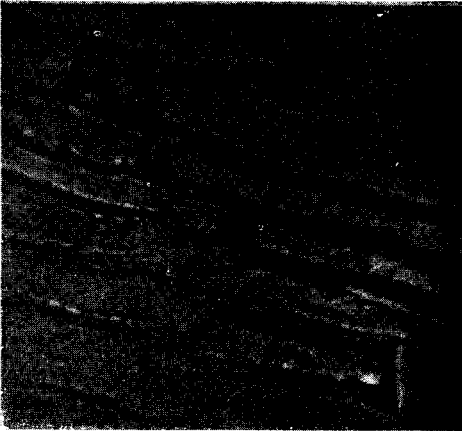


FIG. 1. Sporangium inside the cell,  $\times 125$ .

to culture the organism by different methods. Root tissue containing the sporangium as well as sporangia separated by mixing the root tissue in Waring blender and squeezing through cotton wool were

plated on potato-dextrose agar medium containing yeast extract and thiamine. 0.1% streptomycin was added to suppress the bacterial growth.

Fluffy growth with aerial mycelium was observed and the hyphae 2.0 to 3.5  $m\mu$  in width, were aseptate. Sporangium was apical with a diameter of 4 to 16  $m\mu$ . The fungus was identified as *Gongronella butleri* (Lindn.) Peyronel and Dalvesco belonging to the family Mortierellaceae of the order Mucorales under Phycomycetes. This appears to be the first report in coconut from India and is an addition to the list of fungi occurring in South India (Rangaswamy *et al.*, 1970). Further study to find out the association of the fungus, if any, with the root (wilt) disease complex is in progress.

Thanks are due to the Director, Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, England, for the identification of the fungus and to Dr. K. Radha and Dr. P. Shanta, of the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Regional Station, Kayangulam, for suggestions in this line of work.

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Kerala, July 10, 1974.

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1. Rangaswamy, G., Seshadri, V. S. and Lucy Channamma, K. A., *Fungi of South India*, Univ. Agri. Sci. Publ., Bangalore, 1970.