A new species of *Corynespora* from central India

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During a survey of the forests of Supkhar, Madhya Pradesh for collection of fungi occurring on plant materials, a hitherto undescribed species of foliicolous hyphomycete genus *Corynespora* Güssow was collected. Supkhar, a reserve forest area, adjoining to the Kanha National Park, is famous for natural home of sal and its associates. The sal forest remains green for whole year and very rich in humus, which favours rich diversity of ground flora, climbers and shrubs. The present fungus, designated as *C. supkharii* was collected on the leaves of *Phyllanthus parvifolius* (Euphorbiaceae), is described, illustrated and compared with published species.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Infected leaves were collected from the forests of Madhya Pradesh (India) in December 2004. After recording the symptoms, scrap mounts were prepared from fresh collection in lactophenol-cotton blue. The slides were examined under advanced research microscope 'Leica Germany Phase Contrast Microscope; model Leitz DMRB/E'. Camera lucida drawings of the fungus were also prepared. Taxonomic determinations were made with the help of literature.

*Corynespora supkharii* N. Sharma, Soni, Jamaluddin & R.K. Verma sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Etym : Named after type locality

Maculae amphigenae, circulares vel irregulares, deinde coalescentis et necroticae, brunneae ad supernae, griseo brunneae ad infernae, margin atro brunneae. Coloniae hypophyllae, effusae, fuscae. Mycelium internum, septatis, ramosis, laevibus, tenuitunicatis. Stromata absentia. Conidiophora macronematosa, mononematosa, oriunda singulata vel 2 fasciculata, usque 9 septata, simplicia vel raro ramosa, recta vel curvata, geniculata, olivaceo brunnea, cellularae basali inflati, 0-4 proliferationes cylindricas, cylindricata, laevia, crassitunicata, usque 87.5-275 x 7.5-10 µm. Cellulae conidiogenae integratae, terminalis, monotreticae, cicatrix incrassatae vel non incrassatae. Conidia solitaria, sicca, acrogena, simplicia, laevia, tenuitunicata, recta vel leniter curvata, obclavata, ad apicem subobtusa, ad basim truncata, 2-11 pseudoseptata,
hila non incrassata, pallide olivacea, 22.5-142.5 x 10-17.5 µm.

*In foliis vivis Phyllanthus parvifolius* Buch-Ham (Euphorbiaceae), Supkhar, Balaghat (M P), India, 19.12.04, R.K. Verma et K.K. Soni, Tropical Forest Research Institute Herb TF222 holotypus, HClO 45902 isotypus

Leaf spots amphigenous, circular to irregular, later coalescing to form large necrotic patches, brown on upper surface, grayish brown on lower surface, margin dark brown. Colonies hypophyllous, effuse, black. Mycelium internal, composed of septate, branched hyphae. Stroma absent. Conidiophores macronematous, mononematous, arising singly or in a fascicle of two, upto 9 septate, occasionally branched, straight or curved, geniculate, dark olivaceous brown with bulbous base, 0-4 cylindrical proliferations, upto 87.5-275 x 7.5-10 µm. Conidiogenous cells integrated, terminal, monotretic, scars thickened or unthickened. Conidia formed singly through a pore at the apex of the conidiophore, dry, acrogenous, simple, smooth, thin walled, straight to slightly curved, obclavate, sometimes constricted at one place, apex subobtuse, base truncate, 2-11 pseudoseptate, hilum unthickened, light olivaceous, 22.5-142.5 x 10-17.5 µm.

Till date there are 105 names published under genus *Corynespora* (11). Species of *Corynespora* are recently reviewed by Sharma & Srivastava (8). The present species is compared with published species (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12) and found to be different. However, five species of *Corynespora* have earlier been described on the host family Euphorbiaceae viz., *C. cassiicola*, *C. heterospora*, *C. camaguensis*, *C. euphorbiacearum* and *C. melanthesae*. The present species is compared with all these earlier described species and found to be different from them. The present species is close to *C. heterospora* and *C. euphorbiacearum* in the length of conidiophores (90-325 x 4-7µm and 100-245 x 6-8 µm respectively) but differs in the presence of branched conidiophores in *C. supkharii*. The dimension of conidia of *C. supkharii* also differs from *C. heterospora* (75-110 x 13-20µm) and *C. euphorbiacearum* (59-235 x 11.5-22.5 µm). Moreover, conidia have unthickened hilum in the present species while thickened hilum in *C. heterospora*. There is no record of *Corynespora* on the present host.

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