**Pneumatospora obcoronata - a new host from Karnataka**

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During investigations on the mycoflora of forest tree seeds and seedlings, leaves of *Canarium strictum* L. grown in nursery beds in Sampaje, on the foot hills of western ghats in Karnataka state, were found having innumerable, rectangular, black spots of 1-2 x 1-2 mm size. Direct examination of these leaf spots did not exhibit any sign of fungal growth. However, on moist chamber incubation of leaf bits surface sterilized with 0.02% mercuric chloride showed brownish powdery fungal growth after 7-10 days. The fungus was later identified as *Pneumatospora obcoronata*.

Colonies effuse, adpressed, pale brown, Mycelium superficial, branched, septate, hyaline to very pale brown, smooth, 2.5 - 4 μm wide. Conidiophores mononomatous, composite, erect, hyaline to pale brown, smooth, composed of 2-3 erect, septate, closely and parallely arranged hyphae, 16-25 x 7-10 μm. Conidiogenous cells integrated, terminal, holoblastic, hyaline to pale brown. Conidia solitary, dry disciform, muriform, thick walled, smooth, slightly constricted at the septa, pale to medium brown, consisting of two layers of six peripheral cells each of similar size, surrounding a single central cell, 24-30 μm diam, 12-18 μm thick with three peripheral and downwardly protuberate, divergent, subhyaline to pale brown, conical projections up to 10 μm long, 5-9 μm wide at the base, with a central attachment region up to 5 μm long.

Specimen examined: on freshly cut and incubated green leaves of *Canarium strictum*, forest nursery, Silviculture Section, Sampaje, Medikeri Dist., Karnataka State.

Sutton et al. (1) described the monotypic genus, *Pneumatospora* Sutton; Kuthubutheen et Muid from Malaysia, on green leaves of *Nephelium lappaceum* and fallen leaves of *Hevea brasiliensis*, and several other dipterocarp trees. Since the original description, the fungus is described for the first time from India and outside the type locality on a different host belonging to Burseraceae. Sutton et al. (1) also gave a detailed account of this interesting fungus and discussed its relationship with similar conidial fungi bearing composite conidia.

The pathological implications of this interesting fungus on the nursery seedlings are under investigations.

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