

Short Communication

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ASCOLANTHANUS TRISPORUS CAILLEUX FIRST RECORD FROM PAKISTAN

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INTRODUCTION

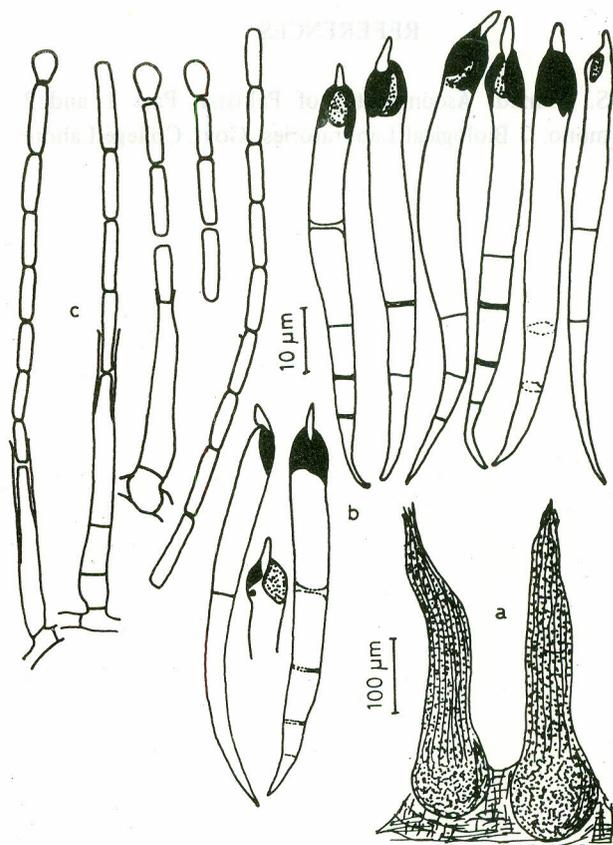
Numerous fungi occurring in various habits have been discovered by various authors from Pakistan [1,5]. They along with the other fungi have uncovered the ascomycetous fungi from the dungs of herbivorous animals and on the other substrates. *Ascolanthanus trisporus* Caill. a pyrenomyces is a monotypic genus of the family Hypocreaceae [3] has been studied from the cow dung collected from Faisalabad (1981), a contribution to the fungi of Pakistan.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Cow dung was collected from Faisalabad (1981). It was repeatedly washed with sterilized water and kept in a moist chamber at laboratory temperature 12-15° the white powdery hyphomycetes *Chalara* sp. appeared after 5-days of incubation. In the second week small fruit bodies of ochraceous colour were observed underneath this colony. Two weeks later the mature perithecia in a stroma were recorded in the 3rd week.

Description

Ascolanthanus trisporus Caill. [3]. Perithecium stromatic and partly sunken into the ochraceous, glabrous stroma. It is partly pale to light brown, with long neck, basal body globose to subglobose, rounded at the base 400-608.4 x 118-7-133.5 μm , Peridom membranous, angularis, two layered, outer most layer consists of isodimetric cells, elongated in the neck region. The neck is cylindrical, 326.4-445.2 μm long and 89.0 μm wide in the broadest part, gradually narrows towards the ostiole, fringed with short, pointed, hyaline setae. Paraphysis absent. Asci subclavate to clavate, deliquescent, number of spores per ascus has not been confirmed, and along with the mucous, come out in bundles. An ascospore has an appendage on both ends, 1-3 septate. Cylindrical up to the middle of its length, then tapers down 67.7 x 5.5 - 6.6 μm (6.2) μm lower appendage 7.7 x 1.2 μm the head cell flattened, dark brown 6-7.7 x 5.5 μm . A slit 11.0 x 2.2 μm divides it into two unequal halves.

Plate 1. *Ascolanthanus trisporus*.(a) ascocarps, (b) ascospores, (c) Imperfect state *Chalara*.

Chalara sp [6]. Colonies effuse, whitish to grey, aerial hyphae uniformly spreading, hyphopodia absent. Conidiophores macronematous, straight or slightly curve, unbranched, septate, hyaline to olive colour, smooth, broad at the base and cylindrical above 14-21 x 3.4 μm . Conidia produced endogenously, cylindrical, catenate, smooth, hyaline, developing in long fragile chains 6.7 x 2.3 μm , deciduous connectives and chlamydospores absent.

DISCUSSION

Ascolanthanus trisporus is congeneric with *Pyxidiphora* and other related genera [2, 4] has discriminated it

from *P. subspinuliformis*. 3-spored ascus has not been critically examined but the protrusion of the ascospores have been observed as in *Mycorhynchus* and other *Pyxidiophorae* [4]. The absence of deciduous connectives is the only difference in the imperfect state.

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Key words: Coprophilous, Pyrenomycetes, First record.

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