

Hypoxylonites Elsik 1990, a correct name for *Hypoxylonsporites* Kumar 1990 and its Indian records

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Saxena, R.K. 1992. *Hypoxylonites* Elsik 1990, - a correct name for *Hypoxylonsporites* Kumar 1990, and its Indian records. *Geophytology* 21: 211-212.

Aseptate, unicellular fungal spores commonly occur in almost all Tertiary palynofloras. Such spores, termed as amerospores, are either inaperturate or monoporate or bear a single furrow. Elsik (1990) described two genera of amerospores that have a single furrow: (i) *Hypoxylonites* Elsik with furrow parallel to the longer axis; and (ii) *Spirotremesporites* Duenas emend. Elsik with furrow oblique to the longer axis. Kumar (1990) published another genus, *Hypoxylonsporites*, for amerospores bearing a single furrow parallel to the longer axis of the spore.

HYPOXYLONITES ELSIK VERSUS HYPOXYLONSPORITES KUMAR

Elsik (1990, p. 143) described *Hypoxylonites* (type species - *H. brazosensis*) as follows: "Oval to elongate, aseptate, bilateral, psilate fungal spores bearing an elongate scar, slit, or furrow. At the level of transmitted light microscopy, at least one species is faintly sculptured. The elongate furrow is parallel to the axis and can be of various lengths. Apices rounded to pointed; usually of similar shape but some species have an attachment scar at one end; apices can also be thickened or otherwise modified. The spore wall in most specimens is generally rigid".

Kumar (1990, pp. 18-19) also instituted a genus of single-furrowed amerospores, viz., *Hypoxylonsporites* (type species - *H. miocenicus*) with the following diagnosis: "Fungal spores unicellular, oval to elliptical in shape with acutely rounded ends. A longitudinal slit-like aperture may be running end to end. Spore wall single layered, smooth and may be differentially coloured".

From the above generic diagnoses, it is evident that the two genera are identical in all essential characters. Both exhibit close affinity with extant *Hypoxylon* of the family Xylariaceae and are named after it. Although both the genera were published in the same year, *Hypoxylonites* Elsik (March 1990) has nomenclatural priority over *Hypoxylonsporites* Kumar (May 1990). *Hypoxylonsporites* Kumar is therefore illegitimate, being a superfluous generic name, and must be rejected in favour of *Hypoxylonites* Elsik (Principle IV, Articles 11.1, 11.2 and 63.1, Greuter *et al.*, 1988).

INDIAN RECORDS OF HYPOXYLONITES

1. *Hypoxylonites miocenicus* (Kumar) comb. nov.
Basionym - *Hypoxylonsporites miocenicus* Kumar 1990, *Rev. Palaeobot. Palynol.* 63, 19, pl. 1, fig. 23.
2. *Hypoxylonites ater* (Kumar) comb. nov.
Basionym - *Hypoxylonsporites ater* Kumar 1990, *Rev. Palaeobot. Palynol.* 63 : 19, pl. 1, fig. 13.
3. *Hypoxylonites curvatus* (Ramanujam & Rao) Elsik 1990.
1979 - *Diporisorites curvatus* Ramanujam & Rao, p. 294, pl. 1, fig. 6.
4. *Hypoxylonites* sp.
1973 - *Fungal spore, Venkatachala & Rawat*, p. 258, pl. 1, fig. 11.
5. *Hypoxylonites* sp. Saxena & Khare 1992, p.00, pl. 1, figs 2,14

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