Forest litter hyphomycetes from Andhra Pradesh, India V.A new species of *Monodictys* Hughes

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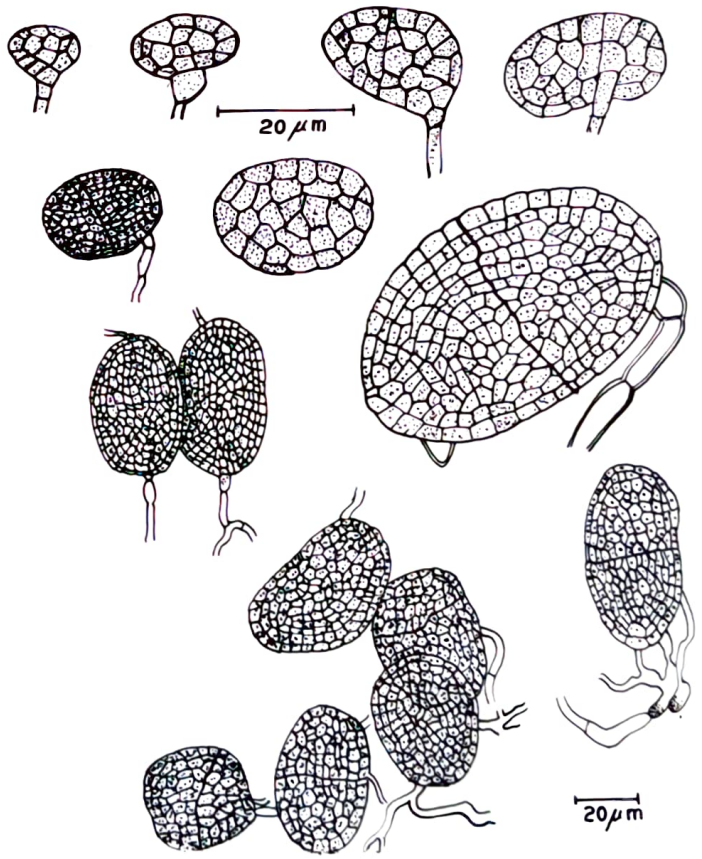
MANY forest localities of Andhra Pradesh, India, remain unexplored for microfungi. For the past several years the authors have been engaged in the collection and study of dematiaceous hyphomycetes associated with plant litter in these habitats.

In one of these surveys, an interesting hyphomycetes was found colonizing dead wood of an unidentified plant. Critical study revealed it to be congeneric with *Monodictys* Hughes. The present collection is comparable to *M. lepraria* (Berk.) M.B. Ellis (1976) in possessing muriform, ellipsoidal to ovoidal conidia which are 80-110 x 30-50 µm. However, the present fungus is different in having slightly larger conidia and also in bearing primary median septum which is absent in *M. lepraria*. The present species is comparable to *Monodictys striata* (Petch) Vasant Rao & de Hoog in bearing muriform conidia often with a mediam septum. Though the primary median septum forms a prominent character in the conidia of present fungus, the conidia of the present collection are much bigger than the conidia of *Monodictys striata* besides differing in other characters (Vasant Rao & de Hoog, 1986). Hence a new species is proposed for this fungus of the present collection.

Monodictys subramanianii Krishna Rao & Manoharachary, Anamorph. sp. nov.

Text-fig. 1

Coloniae brunneae vel atrobrunneae vel intermediate. Mycelium immersum. Stromata, setae, et hyphopodia nulla. Condidiophora semi-micronemata, ramosa, irregularia, recta vel flexuosa, pallide brunneae, laevia, usque 40 µm longa. Cellulae conidiogenae monoblasticae, integratae, terminales, determinatae, doliformes. Conidia solitaria, sicca, acrogena. simplicia, muriformia, ovalia vel ellipsoidea raro irregularia brunnea, laevia, septo medio primary prominenti, 60-120 x 40-50 µm.



Text-figure 1. Conidiophores, conidial development and conidia.

In ligno emortuo non agnito lecto 27 November 1984, India Andhra Pradesh, Kurnool District, Gundlabrahmaswaram. Holotypus-IMI 296866; Isotypus OUMH/NKR 126.

Colonies brown to dark brown. *Mycelium* immersed, stroma, setae and hyphopodia absent. *Conidiophores* semi-macronematous, irregular, straight or flexuous, pale brown, smooth up to 40 µm in length. *Conidiogenous cells* monoblastic, integrated, terminal determinate, doliiform. *Conidia* solitary, dry, acrogenous, simple, muriform, oval, ellipsoidal, rarely irregular in shape, brown, smooth, primary median septum remaining prominent, 60-120 x 40 - 50 µm, conidial secession schizolytic.

Specimen examined - India, Andhra Pradesh, Kurnool District, Gundlabrahmaswaram. On unidentified dead wood, collected 27 November, 1984 HOLOTYPUS : IMI 296866. Isotypus OUMH/NKR 126.

Etymology - This species is named in honour of Prof. C.V. Subramanian, formerly Director of the Centre for Advanced Studies in Botany, Madras, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the study of Hyphomycetes.

Monodictys subramanianii differs from all other described species of *Monodictys* (Ellis, 1971, 1976; Hughes, 1958) in possessing oval to ellipsoidal, muriform, brown conidia that are larger than those of any reported species. The conidia are also unusual in having a distinct primary median septum that remains prominent throughout conidium development even though many additional septa are laid down as the conidum matures.

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