

# LICHEN GENUS *ECHINOPLACA* FÉE FROM INDIA

In continuation of the investigations (SINGH, 1977) carried out on the *foliicolous* lichens collected from Manipur State in 1976, two species of *Echinoplaca* (fam. Asterothyriaceae) have also been discovered. The genus and the species are new records from India. The genus is characterized by the presence of crustaceous thallus usually provided with white hairs, adnate apothecia with laterally spreading excipulum composed of radiately elongated coherent hyphae, and colourless, transversely septate to muriform spores. The genus is represented by nine species in the world flora (SANTESSON, 1952) of which two species (*E. epiphylla* Fée, *E. pellicula* (Müll. Arg.) Sant. are reported below from Indian localities. A key to the species alongwith the descriptions and text-figures are provided to facilitate the identification of the taxa. The specimens are deposited in CAL herbarium.

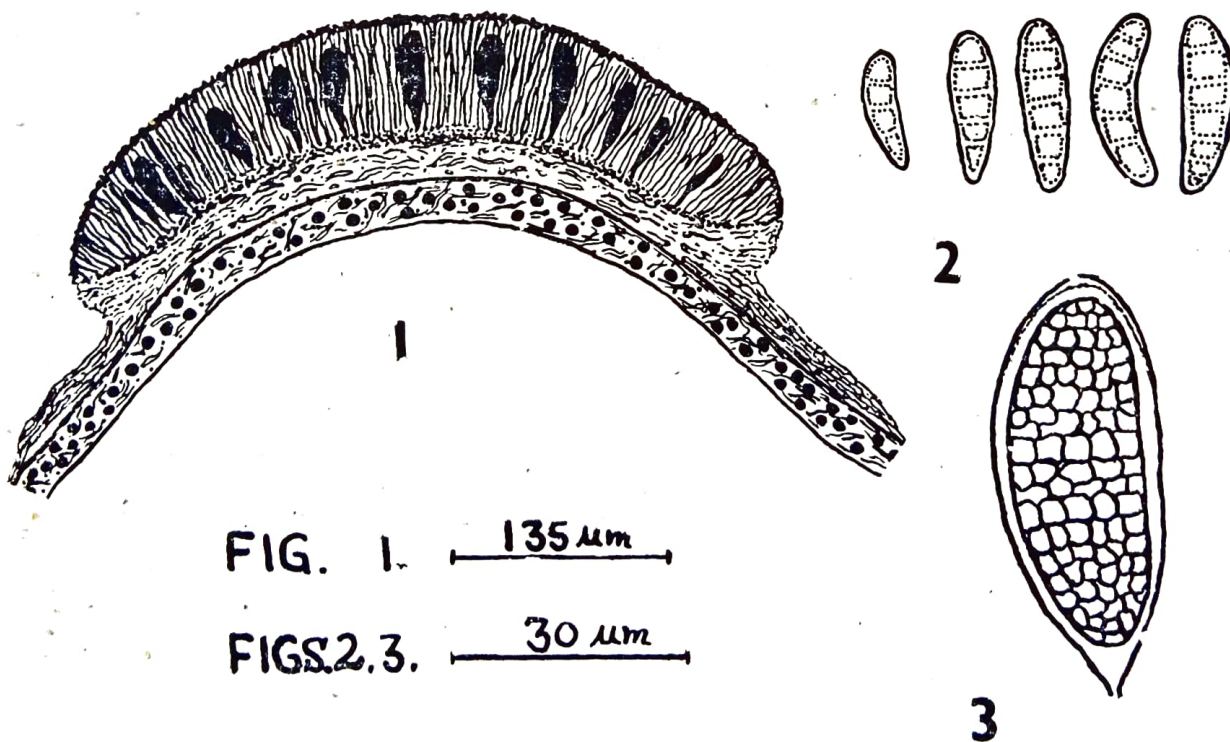
## KEY TO THE SPECIES

1a. Spores transversely 3-6 septate,  $12-24.5 \times 6-7 \mu\text{m}$ .....  
 .....1. *E. pellicula* (Müll. Arg.) Sant.

1b. Spores multicelled, muriform,  $(30)36-54 \times 15-24.7 \mu\text{m}$ .....  
 ..... 2. *E. epiphylla* Fée.

1. *Echinoplaca pellicula* (Müll. Arg.) Sant. *Symb. Bot. Upsal.* 12(1) : 367, 1952—  
*Arthonia pellicula* Müll. Arg. Engler, Bot. Jahr. 4 : 56. 1883b. Incl. f. *trichariosa* Müll. Arg. (Figs. 1-2).

Thalli scattered in small patches, 5-10 mm across, verrucose to rugose ; greenish-grey to whitish-grey, provided with white hairs ; apothecia adnate on algiferous thallus tissue, pale brown, 0.3-1 mm in diam. ; margin indistinct, disc plane, epruinose ; excipulum colourless, laterally spreading over the surface of the thallus and composed of radiately elon-



Figs. 1-2. *Echinoplaca pellicula* (Müll. Arg.) Sant. 1. V. S. of apothecium showing laterally spreading excipulum, 2. Transversely 3-6 septate spores, Fig. 3. *Echinoplaca epiphylla* Fée, an ascus with a single muriform spore.

gated coherent hyphae ; marginal excipulum usually absent or in some apothecia present as a thin zone on either side of the hymenium ; hymenium colourless 30-50  $\mu\text{m}$  high, K— ; I— ; asci 8-spored, 42-45  $\times$  15-18  $\mu\text{m}$ , ascoplasm I+ vinose ; spores colourless, transversely 3-6 septate, fusiform to oblong, 12-24.5  $\times$  6-7  $\mu\text{m}$  ; paraphyses branched and anastomosing.

*Specimens examined*—Manipur—Litan : Sakkibung, Singh 54445 ; Saraikong, Singh 54446 ; Niambiah, Singh 54448 ; Ukhrul area, Singh 54449.

*Distribution*—The species is commonly distributed in the pantropical regions of the world.

2. *E. epiphylla* Fée, Essai. Crypt. Écorc. Offic. 93.1824. p. 93, 1824 ; Sant. *Symb. Bot. Upsal.* **12**(1) : 375.1952.

This species is almost similar to *E. pellicula* (Müll. Arg.) Sant., except that the white hairs in this species are poorly developed ; the hymenium is 45-75  $\mu\text{m}$  thick, K+ light yellowish ; asci 1-spored, 45-60  $\times$  21-28  $\mu\text{m}$  and spores multicelled muriform, ellipsoid oblong, (30) 36-54  $\times$  15-24.7  $\mu\text{m}$  (Fig. 3).

*Specimen examined*—Manipur-Karang ; Kabru Lakha, Singh 54447.

*Distribution*—The species is distributed in the pantropical regions of the world.

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