

LACHNELLA SUBFALCISPORA Reid (CYPHELLACEAE) -
A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA FROM WESTERN HIMALAYAS

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ABSTRACT

Lachnella subfalcispora Reid (Cyphellaceae), is recorded from Mussoorie, India for the first time. The report also represents a first definite record of *Lachnella* Fr. species in India.

INTRODUCTION

In India, only four species: *Lachnella albidofusca* Sacc., *L. fraxcinicola* (Berk. and Br.) Phill., *L. emerici* Berk. and Phill. (= *Dasyscyphus emerici* (Berk. and Phill.) Sacc.) and *L. nilgherrensis* Cooke are recorded, Maju (1933), Cooke (1882, 1886), listed in 'The Fungi of India' Bilgrami *et al.* (1979). The former two are coprophilous while the later two are lignicolous. It may be mentioned here that all these species fall in the limits of discomycetous genus *Lachnella* Boud. (1907), a later homonym of *Lachnella* Fr., Fl. Scan. 343, 835, stands rejected, Dennis (1949), Korf (1973) and McKnight (1976). Accordingly, Indian records of the species need further transference to their correct position.

During botanical collection trip (July-September 1973) in the Western Himalayas an interesting Cyphellaceous fungus was collected from Mussoorie hills at an altitude of 1,900 m. After critical study it has been identified as *Lachnella subfalcispora* Reid. So far it has not been reported from India. Earlier the

species is known only from the Andes of South America, Reid (1961) and Dennis (1970).

The collection described in this paper has been deposited in PAN (Herbarium Botany Department, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India) and TUB (Institute of Biology, University of Tübingen, Tübingen, West Germany).

TAXONOMIC DESCRIPTION

Lachnella subfalcispora Reid,

Kew Bull. 15: 267. 1961

Fig. 1. A-B.

Carpophore small, up to 350 μ m across, sessile, seated on a flat base, superficial, densely gregarious, solitary, globose when young, becoming shallow cupulate at maturity, clothed with thick mat of hairs Fig. 1(A); hymenium concave, rough; margin raised, hairy, incurved on drying. Hairs up to 220 μ m long, 4-5 μ m wide, cleywhite, multiseptate, septa at short intervals, pseudoamyloid, simple, encrusted with amorphous or crystalline matter soluble in strong (10% KOH) solution. Hyphal system monomitic, hyphae thick-walled, walls hyaline. Cystidia, gloecystidia and hyphal pegs absent. Basidia 4-spored, clavate, sterigmata horn-like. Basidiospores (12.5-) 14-16 x 4-5.5 (-6) μ m, hyaline, thin-walled, smooth, one-celled, subfalcate, apiculate, apiculus small. Collection examined: 11389 (PAN, TUB), on herbaceous angiospermic stems under *Urtica dioica* bush, Landour, Mussoorie, Uttar Pradesh, alt. 1,900-2,000 m, N.W. Himalayas, India, August 27, 1973. Leg. M.P. Sharma.

Illustrations: Kew Bull. 15, p.264, Fig. 2; p.270, Fig. 6.

Remarks: This species is previously known only from Venezuela. Its occurrence in the Indian subcontinent is remarkable extension

of the distribution of the taxon. It is one of the minute species of *Lachnella* Fr. which is often overlooked in the field because of its minute size. Single himalayan collection examined is quite typical of the species except for its smaller spores, but well within the circumscription of the species: 15.5 - 17 x 5-6.5 (-7) um, Reid (l.c.).

The diagnostic feature of this species are: small cley white carpophore; white roughened hairs distorting in 10% Potassium hydroxide solution; 4-spored basidia with horn-like sterigmata; and subfalcate, apiculate spores.

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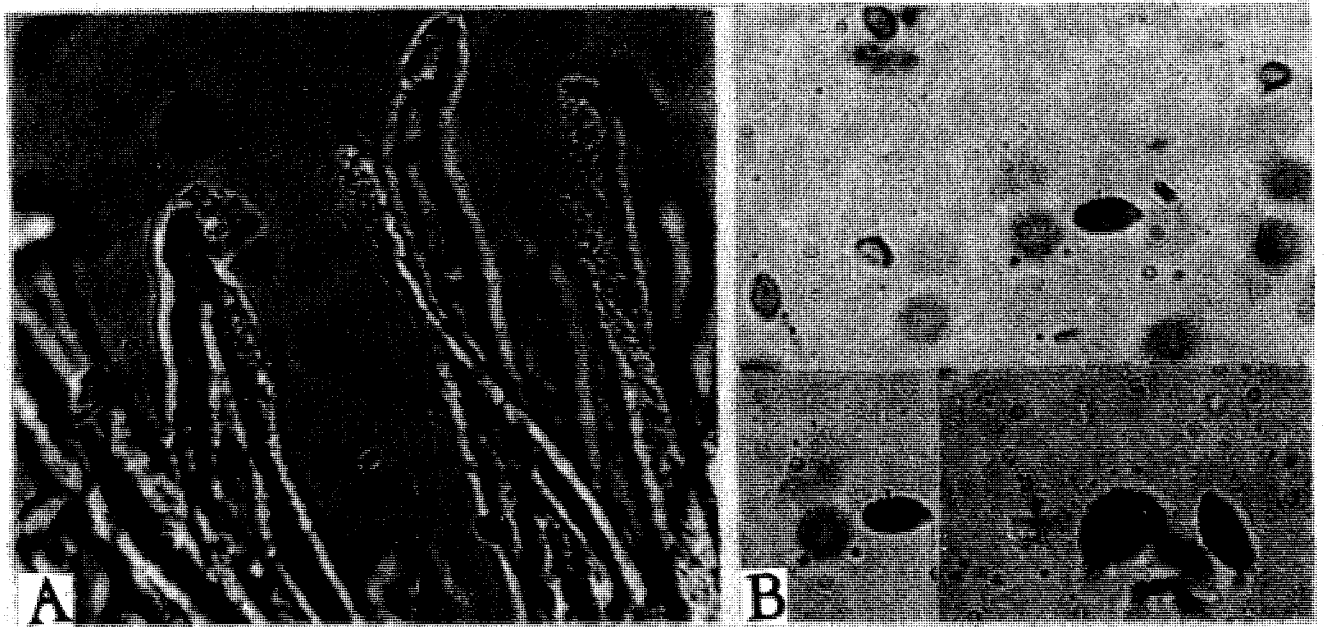


Fig. 1. A-B Lachnella subfalcispora Reid. PAN 11389

A. Microphotograph showing granulated hairs x 1180.

B. Spores x 1180.

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