

A new species of *Cercospora* on *Erythrina lithosperma* from coffee estates in Mysore

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With 1 Fig. in the text.

Erythrina lithosperma, locally known as Halwan or Dadap, is grown extensively as a temporary shade in the coffee estates of Mysore. The author in the course of his investigations on the "new malady" of *Coffea arabica* in Mysore has often collected leaves of *Erythrina lithosperma* affected by a species of *Cercospora*. The fungus affects the leaves during June to September and is generally seen in association with an undetermined species of *Colletotrichum*.

The spots produced by *Cercospora* are pale greyish to brown and in several instances partial defoliation of the tree was noticed which may be due to the combined effects of both *Cercospora* and *Colletotrichum*. The latter forms small roundish yellow spots 2—3 mm, in diameter on the underside of the leaves, these spots are surrounded by a pale green hallow. The spots gradually dry up leaving shot holes.

The *Cercospora* on *E. lithosperma* collected in Mysore differs from *C. erythrinicola* Tharp (Chupp, 1953) in having spores that are shorter and conidiophores that are longer and are in fascicles upto 15 in number. It differs from other species of *Cercospora* described on *Erythrina* spp. namely, *C. erythrinae* Ellis and Everhart, *C. pittierii* Sydow and *C. tomentosae* Hansford (Chupp, loc. cit.) in having conidia that are hyaline, acicular with a truncate base. The name *Cerospora erythrinae-lithospermae* is proposed for the species occurring locally.

***Cercospora erythrinae-lithospermae* Agnihothrudu, sp. nov.**

Leaf spots irregular greyish when young, turning brown with age; fruiting amphigenous but more on the upper surface, stromata poorly developed, conidiophores in fascicles upto 15 in number, dilute brown below, subhyaline at the top, upto 250 μ long and 4 μ wide multiseptae, straight or often sinuous, geniculations absent; conidia hyaline, acircular; generally curved in the middle, indistinctly multiseptate, base subacute, tip acute 40—150 μ by 2—3.5 μ .

Maculae irregulares, griseae, postea brunneae; caespites amphigeni sed plerumque epiphylli; hypostromate parum evoluto, pseudoparenchymatic; conidiophoris usque ad 15 fasciculatis, ad basin pallide brunneis,

apicem versus subhyalinis, usque 250 μ longis, ca. 4 μ latis, pluriseptatis, saepe plus minusve undulatis; conidia acicularia, hyalina, plus minusve arcuata, indistincte pluriseptata, postice parum, antice magis attenuata, 40—150 \times 2—3.5 μ .

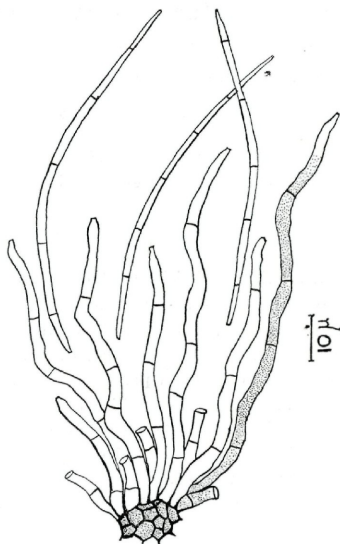


Fig. 1. *Cercospora erythrinae-lithospermae* sp. nov. Agnihothrudu. Conidiophores and Conidia from Herb. T. F. R. No. 2.

On living leaves of *Erythrina lithosperma* Ossoor Coffee Estate, Saklespur, Hassan District, Mysore State, collected by V. Agnihothrudu, dated 14/6/1964, deposited in the Herbarium Tata-Fison-Rallis under No. 2 and in the Herbarium of the Madras University Botany Laboratory.

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References.

Chupp, C., 1953: A Monograph of the Fungus Genus *Cercospora*. Ithaca, New York, 667 pp.

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

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