

Chaetocladium brefeldii van Tieghem from India

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(with 4 figs.)

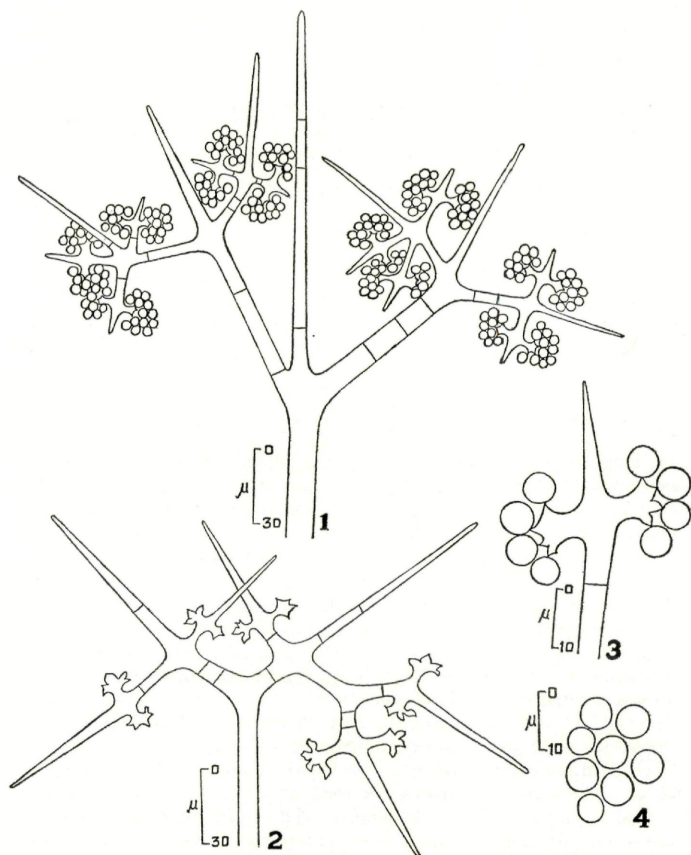
During the course of isolations of Mucorales from soils in India *Chaetocladium brefeldii* was isolated by the author. It is being reported here for the first time from India. The report of this species from other lands have so far been from dungs of animals but this isolate has been made from soil.

Chaetocladium brefeldii van Tieghem (Figs 1—4).

Colonies growing with *Mucor* species on SMA at 20—25° C, at first white later becoming gray to deep olive and finally becoming mouse gray in colour. Mycelium growing slowly, branched, thin, colourless, always with stolons showing rhizoidal-like development in the substrate region. Conidiophores (sporangiophores) arising from stolons, singly or in whorls, stiffy, septate, hyaline, 8.7—17.5 μ , rarely 21.0 μ in diameter; branches of conidiophores 10.5—140.0 μ in length, divided as many as four times, typically in whorls but also dichotomously divided, always ultimately ending in an ovoid swelling, 6.0—13.5 μ in diameter, producing very thin short stalks bearing conidia with central axis of the whorl extended as a sterile spine beyond the swelling, spine hyaline, tapering to 1.5—2.2 μ in diameter and 17.5—143.5 μ in length; conidia globose to very short oval, smooth, hyaline and slightly gray in colour, double wall not clearly visible, 4.5—5.2 μ in diameter, occasionally upto 6.0 μ in diameter. Zygosporangia not seen. Description based on Mx 96 isolated from farm soil of Chandigarh. Culture deposited in BSM Culture Collection, Botany Department, University of Allahabad and also at NURD, Peoria, Illinois, U.S.A.

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Figs. 1—4. *Chaetocladium brefeldii* van Tieghem et Le Monnier. Camera-lucida drawings. 1. A branch of a conidiophore showing the dichotomous branching pattern. 2. Portion of a conidiophore showing the presence of sterile spines and ovoid swellings. 3. Ultimate branch of a conidiophore showing the attachment of conidia. 4. Conidia.

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