

The Genus *Lasiosphaeria* in India ¹⁾

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The genus *Lasiosphaeria* was originally erected by Cesati and de Notaris (1883), with *Lasiosphaeria hirsuta* (Fr.) Ces., & de Not. as the type species. Ainsworth (1961) recorded 40 species from all over the world. Ellis and Everhart have described 21 species from North America. Munk (1957) recorded 10 species in his flora of Danish pyrenomycetes. However, it remained unrepresented in the Indian flora till Kale (1967) reported *Lasiosphaeria indica* on dead stems of *Bougainvillea spectabilis* Willd.

The genus is characterised by superficial, free, ostiolate, setose or smooth perithecia. Asci cylindrical to clavate; apical apparatus as in *Bombardia* Fr. or of a more reduced type with an indistinct ring, 8-spored. Ascospores varying in colour, shape and septation from hyaline, cylindrical, non-septate to coloured, oblong-oval, curved, slightly enlarged towards one end and septate.

During his mycological collections the author came across infected dead stems of *Moringa oleifera* Lam. and *Micranthus oppositifolius* Wendl. After careful studies the fungus on *Micranthus oppositifolius* Wendl. was found to be a species of *Lasiosphaeria* Ces. & de Not. new to science whereas the fungus on *Moringa oleifera* Lam. constitutes a new host record for the species.

Lasiosphaeria micranthi sp. nov. — (Fig. 1):

Perithecia black, free to gregarious, superficial, flask-shaped, smooth, 600—825 × 750—900 μ (Fig. 1 A). Peridial wall brittle. Asci (Fig. 1 B) many, unitunicate, cylindrical, almost sessile or shortly stipitate, paraphysate, octosporous, measuring 133—159 × 15—22 μ, distinct apical apparatus present. Ascospores (Fig. 1 C) cylindrical, one-celled, slightly curved, guttulate, biseriate to multiseriate, measuring 34—53 × 5—11 μ.

Latin Diagnosis.

Perithecia singularia vel gregaria, superficialia, ovoidea, leves, 600—825 × 750—900 μ; pariete carbonaceo, pseudoparenchymatico; asci numerosi, cylindracei, sessiles vel breviter stipitati, tenuiter tuni-

¹⁾ Accepted for publication in 1973 by Dr. F. Petrak.

cati, paraphysati, 8-spore, $133-159 \times 15-22 \mu$; sporeae distichae vel polystichae, cylindratae, continuae, leniter curvulae, guttulateae; $34-53 \times 5-11 \mu$.

The fungus was collected on dead stems of *Micranthus oppositifolius* W e n d l. at Castle-rock in the month of Nov. 1971 and deposited at Shri. Shivaji College Parbhani under (UKT 101) and at M.A.C.S. Laboratories Poona under (AMH No. 1737).

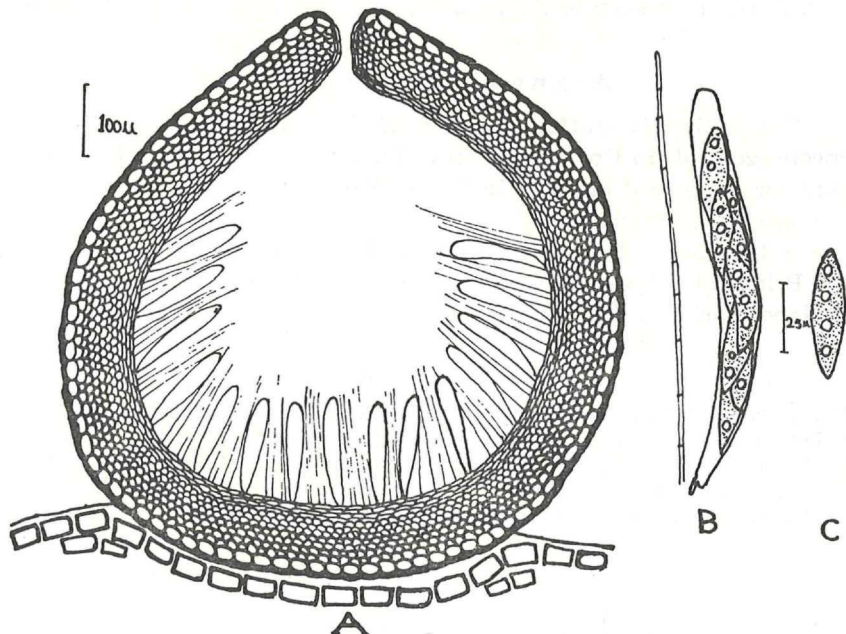


Fig: 1 *Lasio-sphaeria micranthi*: A: V. S. of perithecium, B: Ascus with ascospores, C: Ascospore.

Lasio-sphaeria ovina (Pers.) C e s. & D e N o t.

Perithecia separate or in groups, superficial, dull black, covered by dense white hyphae, flask shaped, ostiolate measuring from $405-525 \times 300-450 \mu$. Asci $175-228 \times 11.4-19 \mu$ unitunicate, cylindrical, paraphysate, octosporous. Ascospores $41.8-57 \times 3.8-5.7 \mu$, hyaline, cylindrical or curved, nonseptate, protoplasm vacuolated, irregularly biseriatae, hyaline, appendages measuring up to 27μ in length, present at both ends.

The fungus was collected on dead stems of *Moringa oleifera* L a m. at Pathri in the month of August 1970 and deposited at Commonwealth Mycological Institute under 155625.

The present collection resembles *Lasiosphaeria ovina* (Pers) Ces. & de Not. and hence is considered as the same. However it is a new host record and reported for the first time from India.

Key to Indian species of *Lasiosphaeria* Ces. & de Not. :

- A. Ascospores hyaline, appendaged *L. ovina*.
- B. Ascospores coloured, without appendages.
 - 1. Ascospores nonseptate *L. micranthi*.
 - 2. Ascospores septate *L. indica*.

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