

Xylaria spp. from West Bengal

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Two species of *Xylaria* (Hill.) Schrank—*Xylaria brasiliensis* (Theiss.) Lloyd on termite nest and *X. castores* Berk. on rotten wood are described and illustrated here.

Key words : Taxonomy, *Xylaria*

Description of the Species

Xylaria brasiliensis (Theiss.) Lloyds, Mycological Notes 6, 893, 1919.

= *Xylaria arenicola* Welw & Curr. var. *brasiliensis* Theiss, Ann. Mycol, 6, 343, 1908.

Xylaria scotica Cooke var. *brasiliensis* (Theiss.) Theiss., Xylariaceae austro-brasiliensis 1, 5, 1909.

Xylosphaeria brasiliensis (Theiss.) Dennis, Kew Bulletin, p. 102, 1958.

Stromata arising from a cylindrical rooting base, simple to branched, stalk above ground 2-2.5 cm long, yellow when fresh, blackish brown on drying, fertile part cylindrical, simple or forked towards apical part, often flattened, 3-10 cm long, with short, sterile, yellowish black tip, surface rough due to crowded perithecial elevation with prominent conical, black and shining ostiolar papillae, flesh of ectostroma solid, hollow on maturity, in section: outermost region of entostroma made of thick walled, angular to rectangular cells of textura angularis to textura prismatica, innermost made of thin walled hyphal cells of textura intricata; perithecia flask-shaped to more or less mammiform, measuring

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420—462 x 252—390 μm , monostichous ; asci arising from the base and sides of the perithecia, cylindrical, apical plug strongly amyloid, measuring p. sp. 42-55 x 4.2-5 μm , with stalk 8.4-14 μm long, unitunicate, 8-spored, paraphysate ; ascospores elliptical, inequilateral, measuring 4.2-5.6 x 2.4-3.2 μm , unicelled, light brown to dark brown.

Collected on termite nest, Khatamguri forest (altitude : 500 ft), Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, India, 12.12.1987, PCC 4337, Leg. K. Dutta.

Xylaria castorea Berk., II Flora Novae—Zelandiae. Part I. Flowering plants. p. 204, 1853.

Stromata erect, simple, stalked, upto 16 mm long and 2.8 mm thick, with obtusely rounded apex, fertile part of stroma cylindroclavate to clavate, surface black, rough in outline due to protruding perithecia ; flesh white, solid ; outer layers of stromatic tissue resembles textura angularis and inner tissue resembles textura intricata ; perithecia arranged in one row towards the periphery, globose to sub-globose, 210-324 μm wide and 337-486 μm tall, ostiole slightly papillate ; asci many, arising from the base and sides of the perithecia, cylindrical, thin walled, stipitate, apex with amyloid plug, octosporous, 49.3-59 (p.sp. 38.3 x 45) x 8.2-8.4 μm , paraphysate ; ascospores uniseriate, elliptical, unicellular, brown, 7.6-9.7 x 4.2-4.6 μm .

Collected on unidentified rotten wood, Cooch-Behar (altitude : 500 ft), West Bengal, India, 29.12.1988, PCC 4376, Leg. K. Dutta, deposited at the Department of Botany, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, U.S.A.

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