

Edible Mushrooms of West Bengal : VII—*Tricholoma crassum* (Berk.) Sacc., a new Indian Edible mushroom

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Tricholoma crassum (Berk.) Sacc., was collected from Diamond Harbour, Botanical Garden, Botanical Survey of India, Shibpur, and Calcutta and its adjoining areas of West Bengal, India, during the months of July to September, 1978. It is a popular edible mushroom and usually consumed by the local people during the rainy season.

Pileus 5.0-11.5 cm in diameter, fleshy, usually convex to hemispheric, but may be expanded to flat, without any umbo or depression but occasionally obtusely umbonate; surface white when young, changed to creamish white with maturity; cuticle easily peeled, with a distinct separable epicutis, moist, polished; *Margin* regular, entire, incurved, smooth, fleshy; *Context* whitish, soft, fleshy, 10-40 mm thick at the centre; *Lamellae* sinuate, adnexed to adnate; regular, easily separable, in rare cases incomplete lamellulae appearing from the margin alternating with the complete one; edge smooth, white to creamish white in colour; 25-65 cm long, 0.3-1 cm wide; moderately crowded, entire, attenuated towards the margin; *Stipe* 10-23 x 1.8-12 cm; central, usually inflated at the base and attenuated towards the pileus, but sometimes may be swollen in the middle and attenuated above and below, fibrillose, white when fresh but becoming creamish white, solid, without volva and annulus; flesh soft, fleshy, white, somewhat fibrous; *Basidia* cylindric to clavate; tetrasterigmatic, sterigmata 1.3-1.8 x 1.6-2.3 μm ; 19.2-29.6 x 6.9-10.1 μm , *Basidiospore* round to ellipsoid, hyaline, thinwalled, smooth, non-amyloid, 5.2-7.8 x 4.4-5.9 μm ; *Spore-print* white; *Hymenophoral trama* regular, with bilateral arrangement; homiomorous, constitute of thinwalled non-amyloid long filamentous hyphae with clamp connexion at the septa 5.8-19.6 μm in diameter; *sub hymenium* well developed and similar structure to hymenium; *Pileal surface* with distinctive epicutis, consisting

of long repent hyphae radially arranged and with clamp connexions, $5.2-7.8\ \mu\text{m}$ in diameter. *Pilear context* dimittic, comprises of round pseudoparenchymatous cells, $7.8-13.2\ \mu\text{m}$ in diameter and thin walled long filamentous cells $7.4-11.3\ \mu\text{m}$ in diameter ; (Fig. 1).

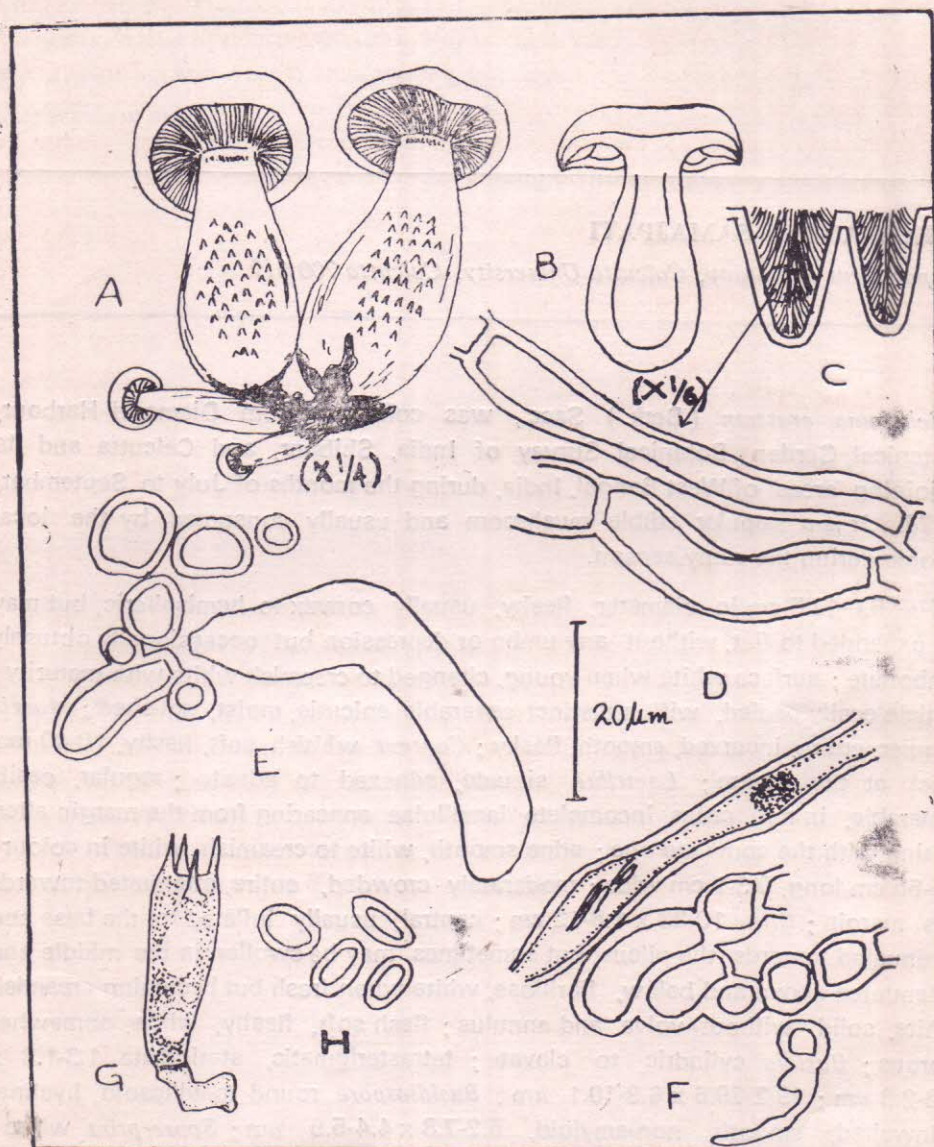


Fig. 1. *Tricholoma crassum*—A-Habit of the carpophore; B-V. S. of the carpophore showing gill attachment; C-Diagrammatic representation of the hymenophoral trama; D-Cells of the hymenophoral tramal tissue; E-Cells of the stipe tissue; G-Basidia; H-Basidiospore.

Tricholoma (Fr.) Quel is well recognised genus of the family Tricholomataceae containing about one hundred species (Singer, 1975). From India, Butler and Bisby (1931) reported only four species of *Tricholoma*. Of these, *T. cremoriceps* Berk. and *T. gigantium* Masse were reported from West Bengal and *T. melaleucum* (Pers.) Fr. and *T. subpulverulentum* (Pers) Fr. from Kashmir. Santhe and Rahalkar (1975) reported *T. nudum* from South India. Sinha and Padhi (1978) recently reported *T. leucocephalum* (Fr. Sensu) Lange and *T. georgii* (Clus) Fr. as edible from Orissa. Previously Nagchaudhuri and Samajpati (1971) reported *T. gigantium* Masse as an edible mushroom from West Bengal. From the literature it revealed that this fungus is a new edible mushroom from India.

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