

***ASTERINA DRYPETIGENA* A NEW SPECIES OF FUNGUS FROM SHIVAMOGGA, KARNATAKA, INDIA**

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The genus *Drypetes* belonging to the family Euphorbiaceae, globally comprises about 200 species of which 15 are in India (Santapau & Henry 1984). *Drypetes roxburghii*, a native of India, Sri Lanka and South East Asia, commonly occurs throughout the southern Western Ghats, growing in the remnants of the evergreen forests of Shivamogga District in Karnataka State found infected with black mildew fungus. Microscopic examination of the infected fungus revealed that it is hitherto undescribed species of the genus *Asterina*, hence the description.

***Asterina drypetigena* sp. nov.**

(Fig. 1; MB No. 803979)

Colonies epiphyllous, dense, up to 2mm in diameter. Hyphae substraight to undulate, branching alternate to unilateral at acute to wide angles, loosely reticulate, cells 16–24x3–5 μ m. Appressoria unicellular, alternate to unilateral, ovate, clavate, often attenuated towards the apex but broadly rounded, straight to often slightly curved, entire, 9–13x4–5 μ m. Thyriothecia scattered to connate, orbicular, up to 200 μ m in diameter, margin crenate, stellately dehiscent at the centre; asci globose, ovate, octosporous, up to 25 μ m in diam.; ascospores

brown, conglobate, cylindrical, ovate, uniseptate, slightly constricted at the septum, 15–20x7–10 μ m.

Materials examined: TBGT 6007 (holotype), 07.ii.2012, on leaves of *Drypetes roxburghii* (Wallich) Hurusawa (Euphorbiaceae), near Maryland plantations, Mavinakatte, Hosanagar, Shivamogga, Karnataka, coll. Sony Thomas.

Asterina drypetis Ryan on *Drypetes* sp. from Porto Rico and *Asterina drypeticola* Petrak & Cif. on *Drypetes glauca* from Dominican Islands are reported (Ryan 1924;



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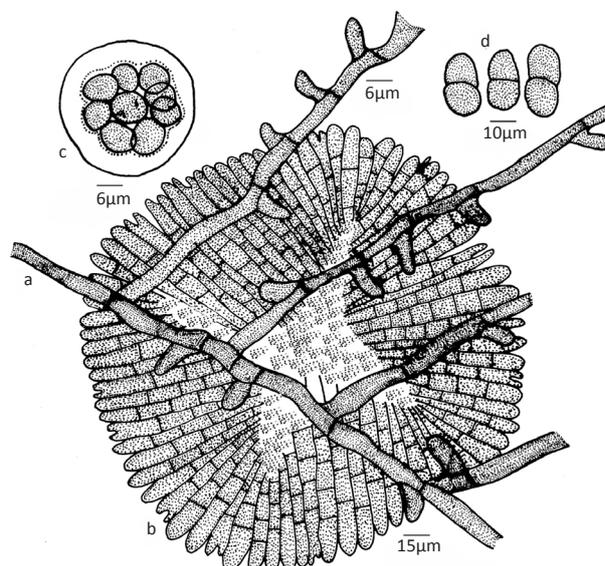


Figure 1. *Asterina drypetigena* sp. nov.

a - Appressoriolate mycelium; b - Thyriothecium; c - Ascus; d - Ascospores

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Petrak & Cifferi 1932). However, *Asterina drypetigena* sp. nov. differs from the former species in having entire appressoria and smaller ascospores (15–20x8–10 μm vs 28–31x10–12 μm) and from the latter taxon in having distinctly smaller ascospores (15–20x8–10 μm vs 30–38x14–18 μm).

Etymology: Named after the host genus.

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