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CORYNESPORA SP. FROM NORTH WESTERN TARAI FORESTS OF UTTAR PRADESH - A NEW REPORT

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During survey for foliicolous fungi from North Western Tarai Forests of U.P., which ranges from Bahraich district to Pilibhit district, the hottest spot of plant diversity only next to Eastern and Western Ghats, the authors collected nine plants i.e. *Bauhinia vahlii, Pongamia* sp. (Fabaceae); *Elephantopus scaber* (Asteraceae); *Carissa carandas, Celastrus* sp. (Apocynaceae); *Mallotus philippensis* (Euphorbiaceae); *Clerodendron viscorum*, (Verbenaceae); *Litsea* sp. (Lauraceae); *Terminalia tomentosa* (Combretaceae) suffering from foliar blight disease. On detailed examination of the fungus, it was identified as *Corynespora* sp. Infected leaves having irregular, grayish white spots on lower surface, brown on upper surface. Microscopic examination of the infected part revealed the presence of solitary, 1-5 distoseptate, obclavate, dark brown, paler towards the apex, smooth, 16-30 x 6-8 millimicron conidia.

Key words- Foliicolous fungi, *Corynespora* sp.

Infected leaves were collected, hand cut section and scrap mount were prepared of infected parts in lactophenol and cotton blue as described by Kamal *et al.* (2003).

The slides were examined and fungus was identified. Microscopic examination of the infected part revealed the presence of solitary, 1-5 distoseptate, obclavate, dark brown, paler towards the apex, smooth, 16-30 x 6-8 µm conidia. The fungus was confirmed as *Corynespora* sp. by Prof. Kamal, Emeritus Professor in Botany, D.D.U. Univ. of Gorakhpur, Gorakhpur (U.P.).

Corynespora sp. was recorded on nine plant species belonging to different seven families i.e. *Bauhinia vahlii, Pongamia* sp. (Fabaceae); *Elephantopus scaber* (Asteraceae); *Carissa carandas, Celastrus* sp. (Apocynaceae); *Mallotus philippensis* (Euphorbiaceae); *Clerodendron viscorum*, (Verbenaceae); *Litsea* sp. (Lauraceae); *Terminalia tomentosa* (Combretaceae). All these hosts are the new hosts for the pathogen and all the type specimens has been deposited at H.C.I.O., I.A.R.I., New Delhi and their H.C.I.O. number has been allotted. Out of these nine plant species seven are ethnomedicinally important. The fungus causes foliar blight disease on the plants in which leaves were badly damaged. The leaves provide a suitable habitat for the growth and devleopment of fungal pathogens by providing ample surface area and nutrient supply.

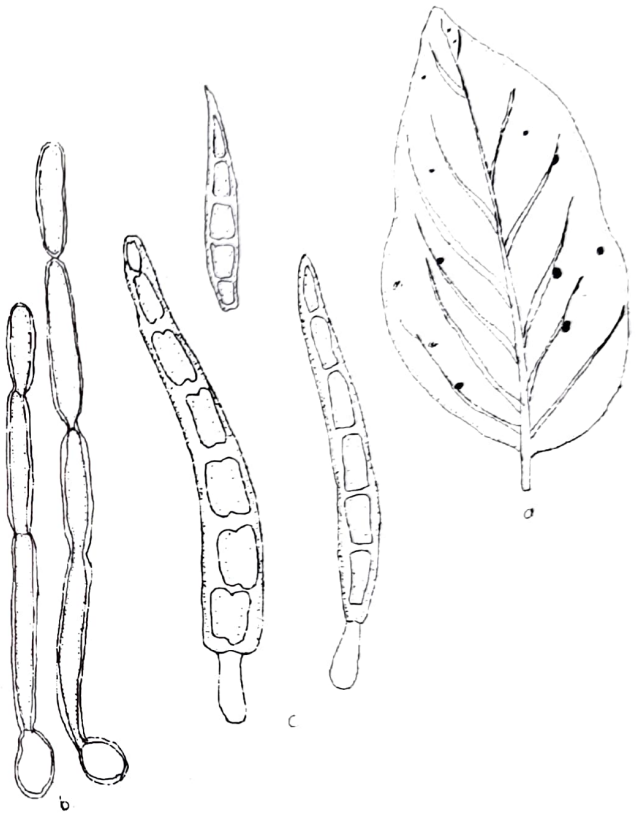

Fig. 01 - *Corynespora* sp. on *Mallotus philippensis* **a** - Leaf spot, **b** - Conidiophore, **c** - Conidia

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