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A new species of *Heterodermia* (Ascomycota, *Physciaceae*) from India, along with a new record and range extension of lichenized fungi in India

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Abstract

A new saxicolous species of *Heterodermia* from Central Himalaya in India is described. In addition, *Anisomeridium polypori* is reported for the first time from India and *Flavopunctelia borrerioides* is shown to occur in the Central Himalaya.

Key words: *Anisomeridium*, Central Himalaya, *Flavopunctelia*, *Heterodermia*, Uttarakhand

Introduction

As part of a study of lichens colonizing monuments of Kumaun Himalaya, we collected lichens in and around Ek Hathiya, Syahi Devi and Kosi Katarmal Sun temples. Among the samples was a fertile and lobulate specimen of *Heterodermia* Trevis. (1868: 613), which was morphologically close to *H. dissecta* (Kurok.) D.D. Awasthi (1973: 113) and *H. koyana* (Kurok.) Elix (2010: 61), but differs from those in several characters and is being described here as a new species. In addition to this, we also found *Anisomeridium polypori* (Ellis & Everh.) M.E. Barr (1996: 76) new to India, colonizing plastic sheets, along with range extension of *Flavopunctelia borrerioides* Kurok. (1999: 26) which was previously known from the Western Himalaya only.

Materials and Methods

The study is based on lichen specimens collected from Ek Hathiya, Syahi Devi and Kosi Katarmal Sun temples and lodged in ALM. Specimens have been examined using standard microscopical techniques and were hand cut sectioned under Digi-Zoom binocular microscope (OLYMPUS SZ2-ILST). All measurements were made on material mounted in water and lactophenol cotton blue (LCB). Spot test reactions were carried out on hand cut sections of thalli and ascomata using an Olympus CX21iLEDFS1 compound microscope. Secondary metabolites were identified by TLC as described in Orange *et al.* (2001) using solvent system A.

Results

Anisomeridium polypori (Ellis & Everh.) M.E. Barr (1996: 76)

Diagnostic characters:—Thallus inconspicuous, pale greenish-grey, perithecia subconical to ± globose, with scarcely differentiated involucrellum, ascospores3-septate, clavate-fusiform, 14–20 × 4.5–5.0 µm.

Distribution and Ecology:—Cosmopolitan; known from Europe, Africa, America, Australia (including Tasmania) and Asia (Coppins *et al.* 2009). Aptroot (1999) mentioned it as a broad niched species colonizing bark, dead wood, dead hepatics, dead polypores and rocks. We report it here as new to India, where it is found growing on plastic sheets in the Central Himalaya.

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