

New Record**A New Record of Fungus *Aithaloderma viride* from Chandoli National Park, Maharashtra, India****Rashmi Dubey**

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Abstract

During a mycological excursion to the protected areas of Western Ghats of India in 2014, an interesting sooty mold Ascomycetous fungus with hole and setae on Ascomata was collected and studied. Survey of literature confirmed that, the fungus associated with the sooth mold was confirmed as *Aithaloderma viride* based on the phenotypic characters. Based on our knowledge, *A. viride* is reported for the first time from India and thus a new record to Fungi of India.

Key words: *Aithaloderma viride*, foliicolous, new record, *Olea dioca*

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Chandoli National Park lies between Koyna Wild Life Sanctuary and Radhanagri Wild Life Sanctuary at the junction of Satara, Kohlapur, Sangli and Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra at an latitudinal range 17°03'29" to 17°17'00" N and longitudinal range 73°41'55" to 73°03'29"E. Prominent forest subtypes are Western subtropical hill forests, West coast semi-evergreen forests. The National Park is rich in the diversity of mycobiota. It has not drawn much attention. The Project entitled "Foliicolous Fungi of Maharashtra" was initiated and accomplished by Botanical Survey of India to study the Foliicolous Fungi bestowed in Maharashtra. During this pilot investigation several rare and new micro-fungi were encountered, of which *Aithaloderma viride* is presented with full descriptions.

Materials and Methods

Samples of dried leaves were placed in paper and aluminium foil bags, taken to the laboratory, and prepared according to Castaneda-Ruiz (2005). Mounts were prepared in PVL (polyvinyl alcohol, lactic acid, and phenol), and measurements were made at different magnification. Photomicrographs were taken with the help of Nikon eclipse 50 i microscope connected with Nikon DS-Fi1 camera. Scanning electron microscopic images were

captured using a Zeiss scanning electron microscope (Model EVO 18-12-97). The type specimen is deposited in Botanical Survey of India, Western Regional Centre, Pune with collection no. 201738 BSI (WC).

Results and Discussion

The pathogen associated with the shooty mould infection was observed as a saprophyte on sugary exudates from insects. The pathogen was characterized with, dark mycelium forming a sooty like coating on the upper surface of the leaves. Thallus composed of black pelliculose, reticulately branched, dense, cylindrical to radiating hyphae. Ascomata upto 130–150 µm in diameter, 140–160 µm high, scattered, subglobose to broadly ellipsoidal, sessile, dark brown, thick-walled, large ostiole having a diameter of upto 120 µm at maturity, setae with blunt apices, upto 120 µm scattered all over the ascomata, peridium 12–17 µm wide, composed to pale to dark brown cells, cells arranged in textura angularis. Asci 31–57 × 12–14 µm, 8 spored, bitunicate, broadly clavate with base twisted, surrounded by mucilaginous sheath. Ascospores 17–24 × 5.84–6.25 µm cylindric clavate. Both ends rounded 4–6 septate, all cells are equal, hyaline, constricted at the septa. Pycnidia are reported to be 430 µm high, arising from mycelia