acute dose of biotin may eventually lead to a permanent sterility in the rat.

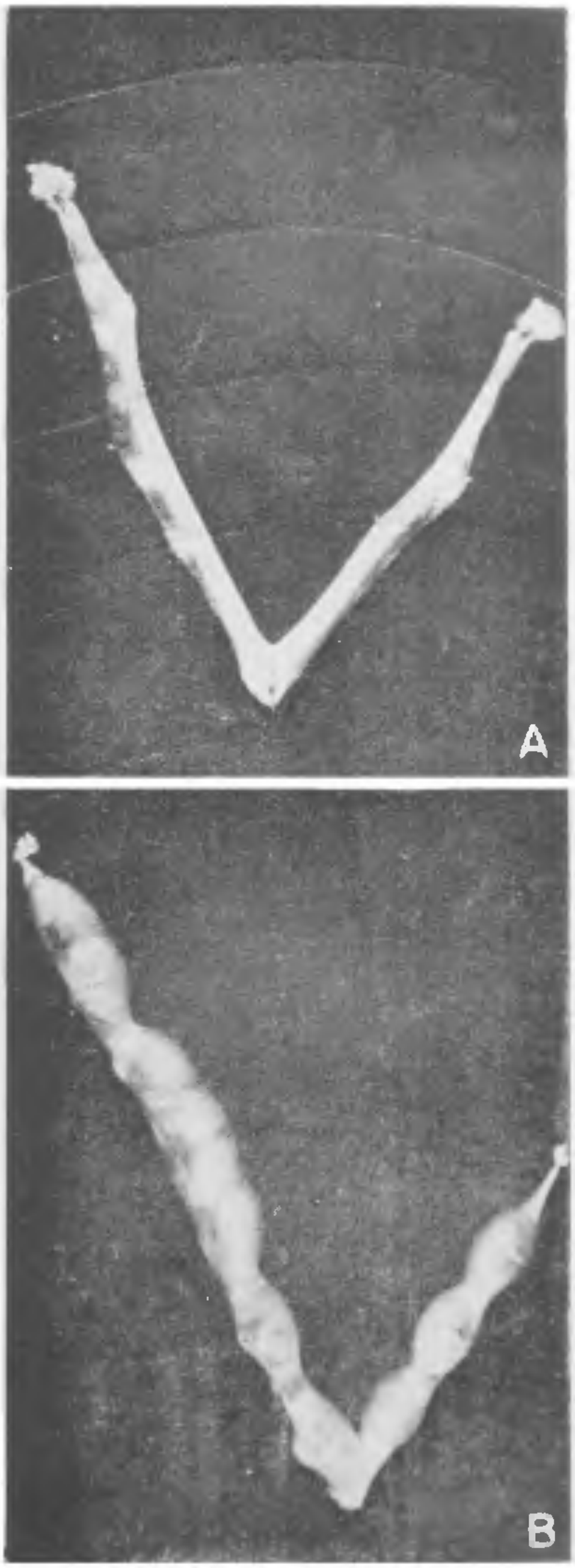

FIG. 1. Effect of biotin alone and biotin followed by estrogen treatment on the maintenance of pregnancy in the rat uterus. A = biotin (5 mg/100 g body weight in two injections). B = biotin (5 mg/100 g body weight in two injections *plus* 1 μg of 17 β-estradiol up to day 21 of pregnancy starting from day six). Photographs were taken on day 22 of pregnancy in the morning.

Department of Zoology,
University of Delhi,
Delhi-7, *April* 27, 1973.

P. K. PAUL.
P. N. DUTTAGUPTA.
HARI C. AGARWAL.

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A NEW SPECIES OF *XENOSPORIUM* FROM INDIA

THE genus *Xenosporium* was described by Penzig and Saccardo[6] with *X. mirabile* as type, which was later redescribed by Ellis[4]. It is a dematiaceous Hyphomycete producing conidia acrogenously from simple or branched, proliferating conidiophores arising from the repent hyphae. The conidia are characteristically incurved, flattened from side to side, phaeo-dictyosporous, producing "conidioles" (Clements and Shear[1]) or "secondary conidia" (sensu Pirozynski[2] and Ellis[4,5]) from their incurved regions. The "secondary conidia" are usually 2 to many celled while they are continuous in *X. berkelevi* (Curtis) Pirozynski and *X. larvale* (Morgan) Pirozynski. (Despite the common occurrence of secondary conidia in all species of *Xenosporium*, their function in its life-cycle is not very clear). Pirozynski[2] reported six species of *Xenosporium* who also had provided a key for them. In this communication a new species of this genus is being proposed.

Xenosporium shoranoorense sp. nov.

Colonies discrete, effuse, deep brown. Mycelium superficial hyaline to subhyaline, branched, smooth walled, septate, with septa 4·5–7·2 μ apart, 3·4–4·5 μ in diam. Conidiophores arise from creeping hyphae singly or in groups, erect or flexuous, simple, subhyaline to light yellowish brown, proliferating, 2–4-septate, 36·0–62·0 μ long, 3·6–7·2 μ broad. Primary conidia acrogenous, single, oval to cylindric, phaeo-dictyo-aleuriosporous, pale to dark blackish brown, muriform 34·0–54·0 μ long, 20·0–35·0 μ broad, covered by a mantle of cells. Mantle 1-celled in thickness, subhyaline to light brown. Each conidium sometimes on detachment carries with it a portion of conidiophore as a frill which, however, collapses later. Secondary conidia light to blackish brown, globose to subglobose, 0–6-septate, muriform, smooth, 7·2–10·8 μ in diam., produced terminally, laterally and from all over the surface of the mantle.

Xenosporium Penz. and Saccardo is a good repository for the fungus just described, despite the fact that the conidia in this fungus are oval to cylindric which are neither incurved nor flattened. Further, the "secondary conidia" arise from all over the surface of the mantle enveloping the primary conidia. Among the known species of *Xenosporium*, the fungus under discussion comes very close to *Xenosporium africanum* Pirozynski[2]. However, the conidial dimensions and other characters of our fungus are not comparable with those of *X. africanum*. Hence, it is described as a new species, *Xenosporium shoranorense*, named after the place of its collection.

Collected growing on dead unidentified monocot, stems immixed with colonies of *Sporoschisma nigroseptata* Dve Rao and Raghuveer Rao[3], (probably growing as a mycoparasite) from Shoranoor, Kerala State, on 3–8–1970, coll. V. Rao, deposited at Herb. Hyd. V.V.C.B.L. No. 1006.

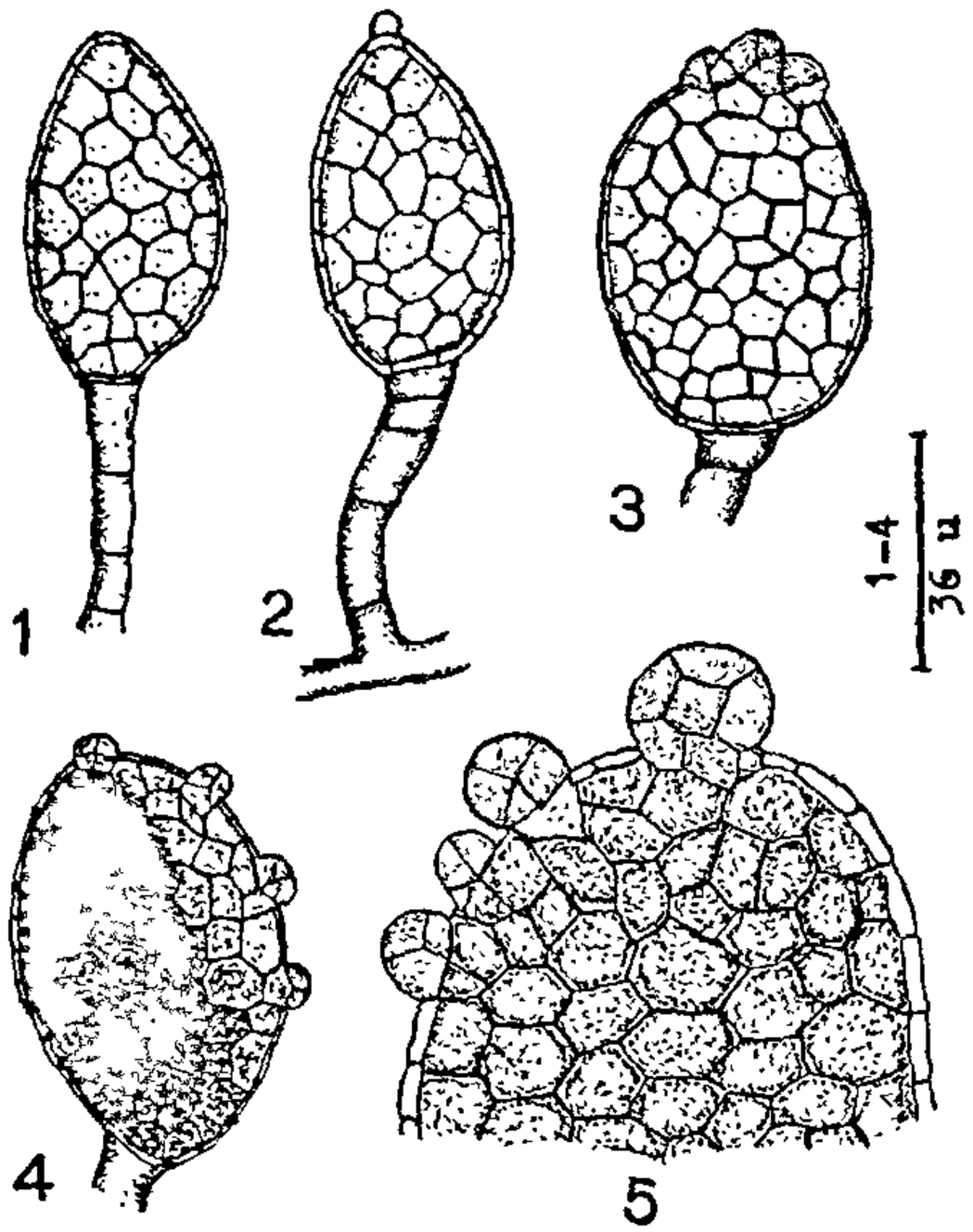

FIG. 1. *Xenosporium shoranoorense* sp. nov. from type specimen, Herb. Hyd. V.V.C.B.L. No. 1006. 1, a young conidium with conidiophore; 2, conidiophore with conidium and a secondary conidium; 3, conidium with three secondary conidia; 4, a mature conidium and 5, a part of conidium showing the mantle and secondary conidia (×, 1,500 except where indicated by the scale.)

Xenosporium shoranoorense sp. nov.

Coloniae effusae, fusce brunneae. Mycelium superficiale ex hyphis hyaliniae vel subhyalinis, ramosis, laevibus, 3·4–4·5 μ in diam., septatis, septa 4·5–7·2 μ distantibus. Conidiophora singula vel gregaria ex hyphis lateribusque vel terminali oriunda, simplicia, erecta vel flexuosa, subhyalina vel ochraceo-brunnea, 36·0–62·0 μ longa 3·6–7·2 μ lata, 2–4-septata. Conidia acrogena, producta singula ad apice conidiophora, fusce brunnea, dictyospora, ovalia vel cylindrica, 34·0–54·0 μ longa, 20·0–35·0 μ lata. Conidium quisque ab amiculum tectum est. Amiculum e unicellularis crassum praeditum. "Conidia secundaria" globosa vel subglobosa, muriformia, laevia, 0–6-septata, pallide fusce brunnea, producenta ex conidia prima terminali vel laterali vel uniformia oriunda.

Typus lectus emortuis in caulis innominato monocotyledonae, mixtus ad coloniae *Sporoschismae nigroseptatae*, a V. Rao, ad de silva Shoranoor, die 3, mensis Augustis, anni 1970, et positus in Herb. Hyd. V.V.C.B.L. sub. numero 1006.

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Department of Botany, VASANT RAO.
Vivek Vardhini College and P. RAGHUVEER RAO.
University College of Science,
Osmania University,
Hyderabad, A.P. (India),
August 23, 1972.

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A NEW SPECIES OF *PRINGSHEIMIA* SCHULZER

DURING a general survey of Ascomycetes from Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh, the authors collected black fruiting bodies on dried stems of *Dendrocalamus strictus* Nees. On examination it was found to be a species of *Pringsheimia*. Earlier Chona *et al.*[1], Kapoor and Gill[2], Muller[3] and Tilak and Rao[4] have reported six species of this fungus from India. The present species differs from all the existing species of this genus in morphological characters as shown in Table I.

The present fungus is being described as *Pringsheimia pachmarhii* sp. nov.