The fungus grew and sporulated well on PDA medium. Mycelium grey coloured with green pigment deposited on the medium. The hyphae septate, branched and measured 3–6 μ in width. Only conidiophores and conidia were produced. Conidiophores dark brown, unbranched and erect. Conidia clavate, slightly bent or curved, rarely triangular with flattened ends, 2–4 celled (1–3 septate), light brown in colour and measured 12 to 21 $\times$ 2 to 9 μ. One or two of the middle cells were disproportionately enlarged and more darkly coloured than the end cells.

The causal agent has been identified and confirmed as the *Curvularia* state of *Cochliobolus geniculatus* Nelson (IMI 184580).

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MEALY BUGS ON THE ROOTS OF *PARTHENIUM* WEED

Parthenium hysterophorus Linn., commonly called "congress grass" is at present an aggressive weed in many parts of India. It is not known to be affected by any pest or disease[1]. Recently, Anupam Varma *et al.*[2] have reported mycoplasmal etiology for this plant growing at Delhi and proposed its utility for the biological control. In some plants of the same species growing at Mysore City, attack of mealy bugs was observed on their roots. Young plants were especially prone to the attack and later they died. Such plants were seen wilted. The nymphs and adult females lodge on the root surface and feed on them (Fig. 1). The bug is identified

Fig. 1. Roots of *Parthenium* infected with mealy bugs.

as *Ferrisia virgata* Cockerell. Further search for other pests attacking the plant is essential for finding out their use in biological control of this pernicious weed.

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