

*Matrix*: In caules *Gymnosporia rothiana* Mont. Legit. A.W.S. ad Bhimashankar (30-9-1974); No. AMH 2667 (Holotypus).

The present collection differed significantly from the type species, viz., *Exilispora plurisepta* Teh. and Dan.<sup>2</sup>, in gross-morphology, dimensions of perithecia, asci and ascospores besides being collected on a new host. Although the genus *Exilispora* closely resembles the genus *Ophiobolus* Reiss.<sup>1</sup>, it differs from it in having significantly long beaked perithecia and phaeo-scolecosporous ascospores.

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#### VIVIPARY IN *LIVISTONA CHINENSIS* R. Br.

In Monocotyledons, habitual vivipary has so far been described only in *Pectinella antarctica* Black, a marine member of Potamojetonaceae. It also occurs as a rarity in *Melocanna bambusoides* of Graminae. Since there are no published reports of vivipary in palms an account of viviparous seedlings in *Livistona chinensis* is given here.

On 22nd July 1975, a number of fruits of *L. chinensis* in germinated stage were noticed while they were still attached to the fruitiferous axis (Fig. 1). In these fruits, radicular portion of the



FIG. 1

embryo was peeping out through the fleshy green epicarp. The fruitiferous axis was sprayed with an insecticide to avoid ant attack and was loosely covered with moist thin muslin cloth to provide

sufficient moisture. Observations were made until 10th August and the results noted.

Nearly 79% fruits got abscised when the seedlings were ranging from 1 to 1.5 cm in length. Only in exceptional cases the seedlings could grow upto 4.5 cm when the fruits were attached to the tree (Fig. 2). In none of the seedlings the plumule could be seen emerging from the cotyledonary sheath. The radicle also did not elongate much.



FIG. 2

In the normal course, the mature fruits of *Livistona chinensis* get abscised when the epicarp turns to deep black colour. In a few cases they remain attached until the pericarp completely dries up. The mature fresh fruits when placed in soil germinate only when the pericarp is partially or completely decayed. This process takes two to six weeks depending upon the season. The relative humidity during these days was ranging from 73 to 98%. The precocious germination of fruits reported here might be due to high humidity of the atmosphere.

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