

SHORT SCIENTIFIC NOTES

***Leptosphaeria herpotrichiodes* De Not., A New Record From India**

Leptosphaeria herpotrichiodes de Not. was obtained from dead twigs of *Saccharum munja* Roxb., floating in the river Ganges at Sahibganj, Bihar and Farakka, West Bengal. Earlier this fungus has been reported from Italy², Rome¹, U.S.A.¹, Bulgaria⁴ and Switzerland¹, where it is known to cause foot rot disease of wheat and other cereals. The morphological details of the fungus are as follows:

Perithecia superficial, black, globose, ostiolate, 150–300 μ in diameter; asci subclavate to cylindrical, bitunicate, octosporous, 77.7–87.0 \times 14.8–16.7 μ ; ascospores brown, biserial, fusoid, 6–8 septate, 25.9–33.3 \times 7.4–9.3 μ ; paraphyses absent.

The specimen is deposited at CMI, Kew, England, under accession number IMI 213071.

The authors are grateful to Drs. Anthony Johnston and A. Sivanesan of CMI, Kew, England, for their help in identification of the fungus.

P.G. Botany,
Bhagalpur University,
Bhagalpur 812 007,
September 23, 1977.

K. S. BILGRAMI,
M. A. RIZWI.

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On a New Record of Black Ruby, *Puntius nigrofasciatus* (Günther) from India (Cypriniformes: Cyprinidae)

The Black Ruby, *Puntius nigrofasciatus*, is a small beautifully coloured freshwater fish which is hitherto known only from Southern Ceylon (Sri Lanka)^{1–3}. It can be easily distinguished from other species of *Puntius* by three vertical black bands on the body, serration on the last undivided dorsal ray, absence of barbels and a complete lateral line with 20–22 scales^{1,3}.

Recently, while working out a collection of riverine fishes of Western Ghats, I came across six examples of *Puntius nigrofasciatus*, measuring 38.0 to 45.0 mm in total length, collected from a rivulet in the forest area of Ponda in Goa. The present find, therefore, extends the distributional range of this species considerably northwards in the Western Ghats of India. Besides this species, eight other Indian species of *Puntius* are also known to occur in Sri Lanka⁴.

Since the genus *Puntius* contains members of only primary freshwater fishes⁵, the occurrence of common species between India and Sri Lanka supports the view that a land connection must have existed between India and Sri Lanka in the geological past. *P. nigrofasciatus* resembles *Puntius ticto* (Ham.) which is widely distributed all over India and adjacent countries^{1,4}. The fact that *P. nigrofasciatus* is absent in the Himalayan drainages⁶, it appears probable that it evolved in the Western Ghats from a stock of *Puntius* sp. resembling *P. ticto* and subsequently migrated to Sri Lanka through the land connection which presumably existed then between India and Sri Lanka. This view is also supported by the fact that freshwater fish fauna of India is believed to have originated in South-Chinese region and subsequently migrated to the Himalayas and to peninsular India, etc⁵.

The author is thankful to Dr. B. K. Tikader, Deputy Director of this station, for the facilities provided.

Zoological Survey of India,
Western Regional Station,
Poona 5, July 23, 1977.

G. M. YAZDANI.

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