

the best on account of its stronger chelating properties⁸. Nishikawa and Tabata⁹ have observed that the reduction in toxicity is related to the stability constants of the metal complex formed.

The results of the present study suggest that EDTA can be used as an anti-pollutant for temporary treatment of copper pollution. EDTA has the ability to wrap itself around Cu ion and coordinate with all six octahedral position at once. The chelating properties of EDTA are so remarkable that it can even remove the Cu atom from an enzyme¹⁰.

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OCCURRENCE OF *BEAUVERIA ALBA* ON A SPIDER

S. CHANDRASHEKHAR*, T. S. SURYANARAYANAN AND C. L. NARASIMHAM

*Department of Zoology, Department of Botany Vivekananda College, Madras 600 004, India

The spider belonging to the genus *Achaearanea* occurring in the city of Madras was found to harbour a fungus. The fungus was found inside the abdomen of young (immediately after hatching) and adult spiders of both sexes as white patches (Fig. 1). The fungus was isolated and identified as *Beauveria alba* (Limber) Saccas.

The spider was washed twice in sterile distilled water, surface sterilized in 0.1% mercuric chloride, washed again in sterile water and placed in an agar slant and

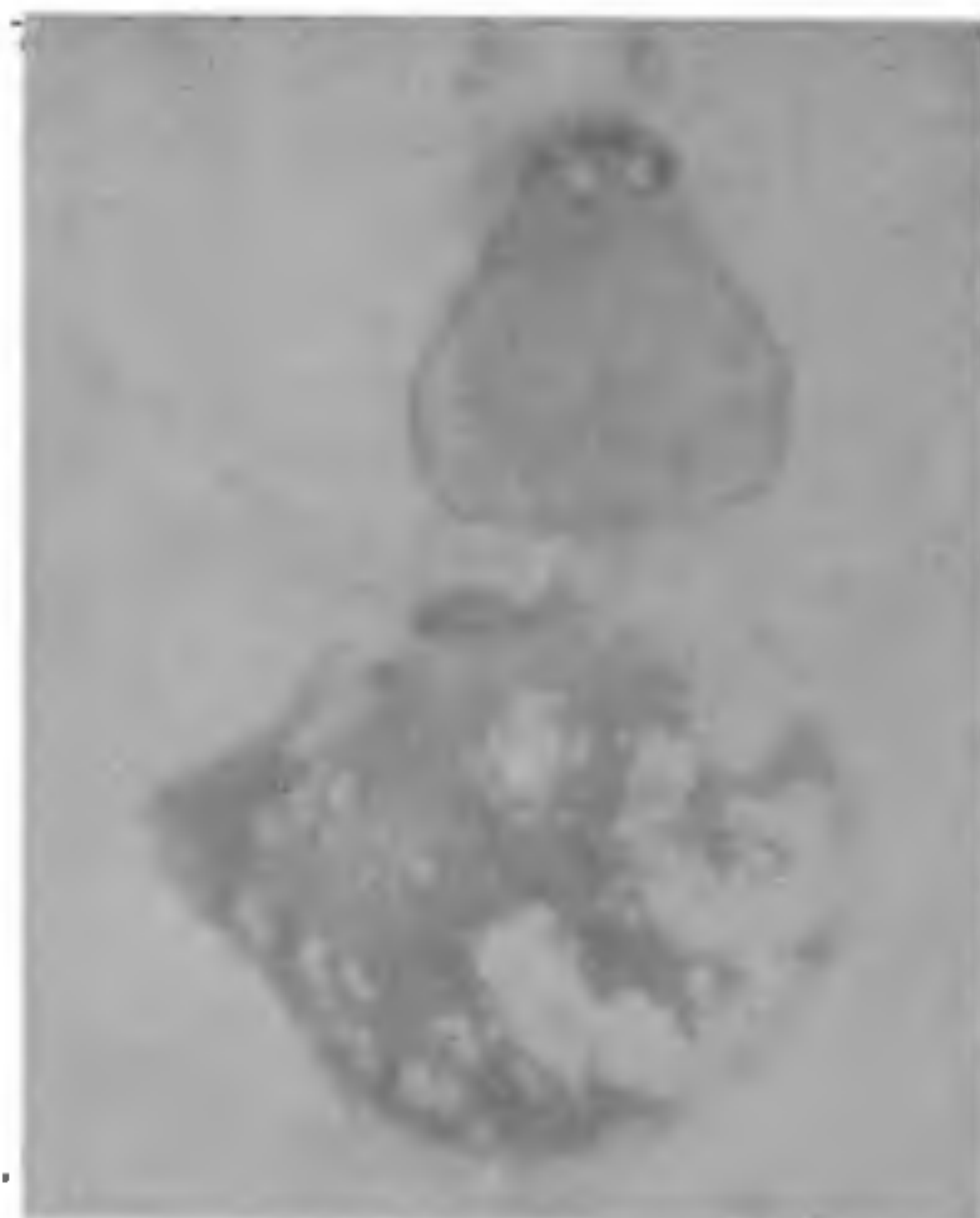


FIG. 1. *Achaearanea* showing fungal patches in the abdomen, $\times 30$.

its abdomen crushed with a sterile needle. Potato dextrose agar, potato sucrose agar or Czapek's agar slants were tried. Slants thus prepared were incubated at $30 \pm 1^\circ \text{C}$. The fungus appeared as white growth on the 6th day of incubation on PDA and on the 10th day on the other two media. There was no sporulation on any of the media even after 15 days of incubation. On exposure to near-ultra violet light from 2 BLB lamps (Sylvania Black Light Lamps 40 W) the fungus sporulated on PDA. The fungal colony was lanose to floccose and hyaline. The medium was not coloured. Conidia were hyaline, smooth, globose to subglobose.

Species of *Beauveria* are insect parasites^{1,2}, but *B. alba* has been isolated from the cover of a book, skin lesion and sputum of human and from *Pisum* sp³. Our report appears to be the first one of this fungus occurring on a spider. The specimen has been deposited at CMI, Kew, Surrey, England (IMI 250309).

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