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OCTOSPORA EUCHORA, A RARE PEZIZALES FROM INDIA

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OCTOSPORA Hedw. ex S. F. Gray was typified¹ by *O. leucoloma* Hedw. ex S. F. Gray, which disposition has been accepted, Fuckel's Fungi Rhen. No. 1219, *Peziza leucoloma* (Hedw.) Raben., in the Farlow Herbarium has been designated² as the neotype specimen of *O. leucoloma* and the relationship within *Octospora* has been discussed³. Accordingly, *O. euchora* (Karst.) Berthet is here placed in *Octospora* subgenus *Octospora*.

O. euchora is recorded for the first time from India. Although the species has a limited global distribution, it is represented well in Western Himalayas, where it was found growing in damp, bare soil under coniferous canopy. Interestingly, some of the collections have been made from burnt soil. The specimens were critically examined for macroscopic and microscopic features using appropriate fungal stains. The species is delimited by the following important features:

Apothecia up to 3 mm in diam., densely gregarious, sessile, discoid; external surface pale orange, attaching hyphae numerous towards base, up to 14 μm wide; margin entire; hymenium orange. Asci 125–180 (–195) \times 9–11 μm , 8-spored, cylindrical, J-. Ascospores 14–18 (–19) \times 7–8.8 μm , ellipsoid, uniseriate, hyaline, smooth, biguttulate. Paraphyses up to 3.5 μm wide below, expanding above up to 7 μm at their clavate tips, slender, septate, straight, simple or branched below. Anatomy; Excipulum textura angularis throughout, up to 390 μm thick, cells up to 50 μm across, becoming somewhat hyphoid towards margin; hypothecium up to 50 μm thick, textura angularis, cells up to 18 (–20) μm across.

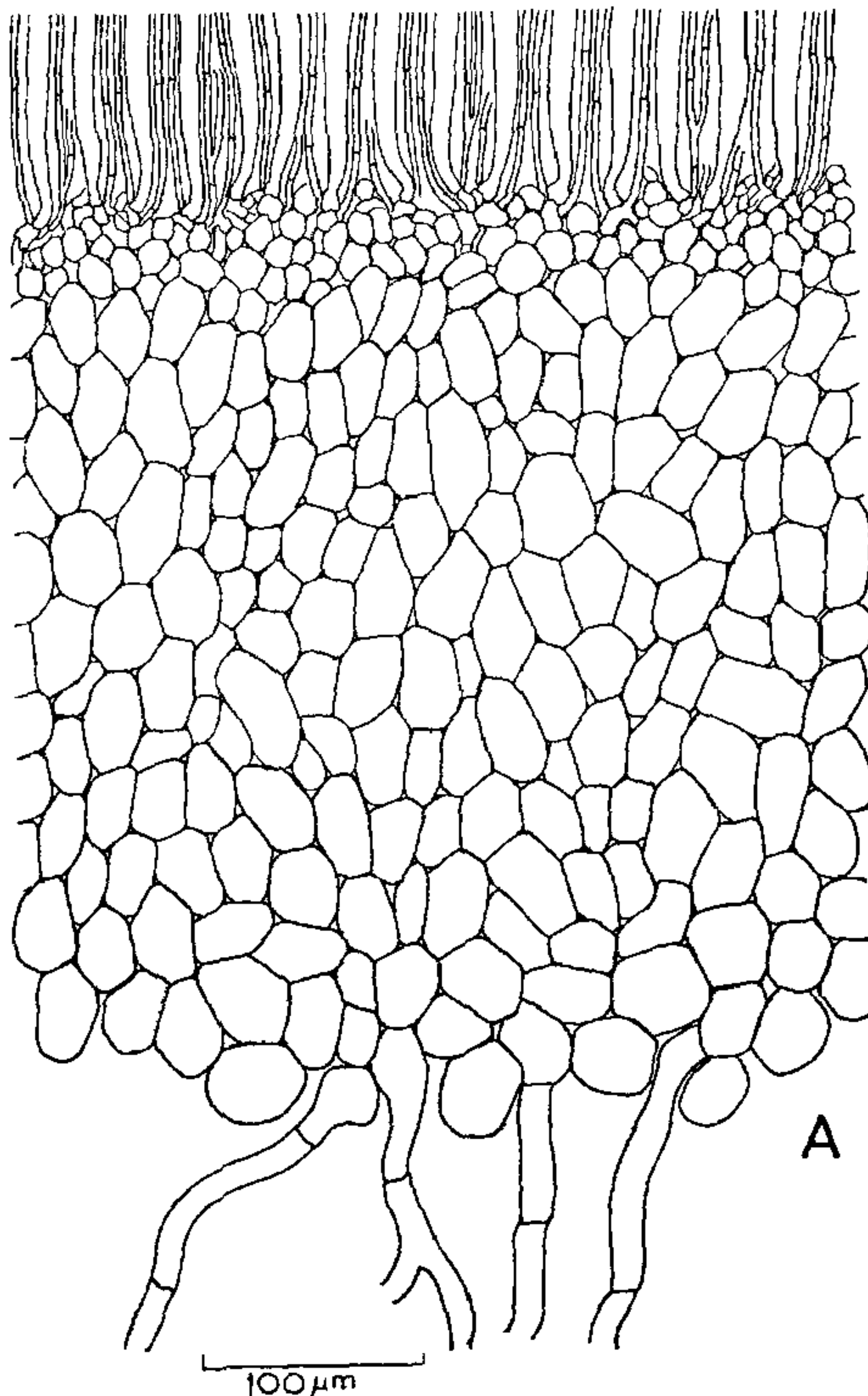


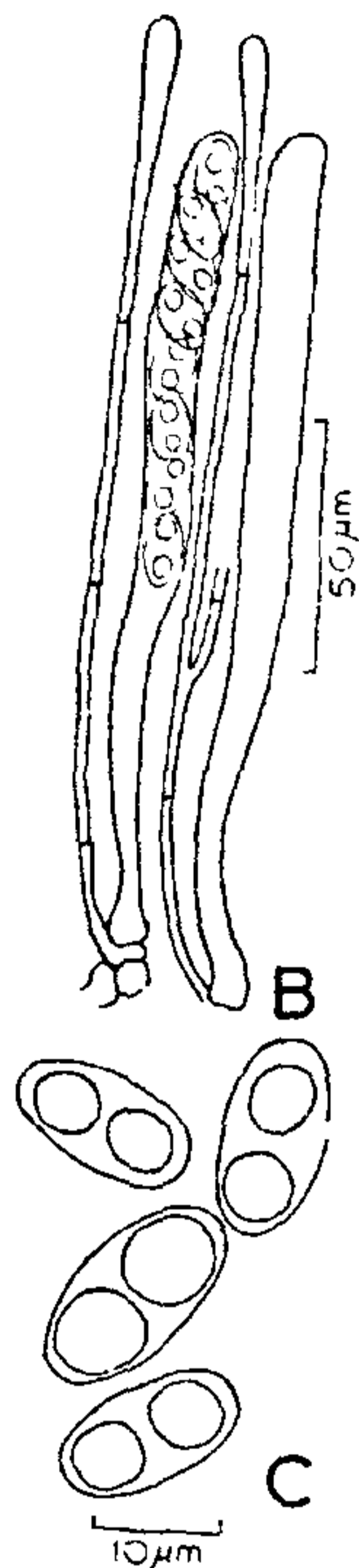
Figure 1. *Octospora euchora*. A. V.S. of the apothecium passing through its middle.

Collections examined: S. Chander 2478, 2479 (PAN, BPI), on soil Gulmarg, J&K, August 28, 1972; S. Chander 2491 (PAN, BPI), on burnt soil, Pahalgam, J&K, August 30, 1972; S. Chander 2533 (PAN, BPI), on burnt soil, Kilbury, Nainital, U.P., August 11, 1973; S. Chander 2575 (PAN, BPI), on burnt wood and nearby soil, Municipal Gardens, Mussoorie, U.P., September 6, 1973.

Distribution: Eurpore, India.

The lack of a raised margin and the excipular anatomy in the Indian collections are typical of *O. euchora*. In its anatomical features *O. euchora* is close to *O. semiimera* (Karst.) Khare and Tewari, but the latter grows partially immersed in soil and has larger ascospores.

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A MYXOMYCETE, *FULIGO INTERMEDIA* MACBR. ON MOSSES FROM NAINITAL

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GENERALLY the myxomycetes occur in cool, shady, moist places in the woods, on decaying logs, dead leaves, bark pieces of living trees and on other moist

organic matter¹. However, the association of this group of organisms with bryophytes is not frequently known².

The infected specimens of several mosses namely, *Atrichum obtusulum* (C. Muell.) Jaeg, *Pogonatum aloides* Hedw. (Polytrichaceae), *Barbula* sp. (Pottiaceae) and *Leucodon secundus* (Harv.) Mitt. (Leucodontaceae) were collected from Kilbury (altitude 2119 m) and China Peak (alt. 2611 m) Nainital, during rainy season (August 1981). The brilliant yellowish-white colour of the fungus attracted our attention in the field. Only the green tips of the plants were pliable; the rest of the shoots were completely impregnated with a thick coating of yellowish-white *Fuligo* infection. The growth of the mosses seemed to be retarded.

The specimens were examined by Dr. E. Punithalingam of the Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew (England) and the fungus determined as *Fuligo intermedia* Macbr. (= *Fuligo cinerea* var. *ecorticata* G. Lister.) (CMI Herb. numbers: 261541; 261542; 261543; 261544). All the specimens are deposited in the herbarium of Botany Department, D.S.B. College, Kumaun University, Nainital (specimen numbers: A1; P.1; B.2; L.1).

As far as we know, this is the first report of a myxomycete, occurring over the surface of living moss plants. *Fuligo cinerea* (Schw.) Morg. is otherwise reported from dead leaves of *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Sachharum* sp. and rotten cloth pieces from Doiwala, Dehra Dun by Thind and Rehill³.

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