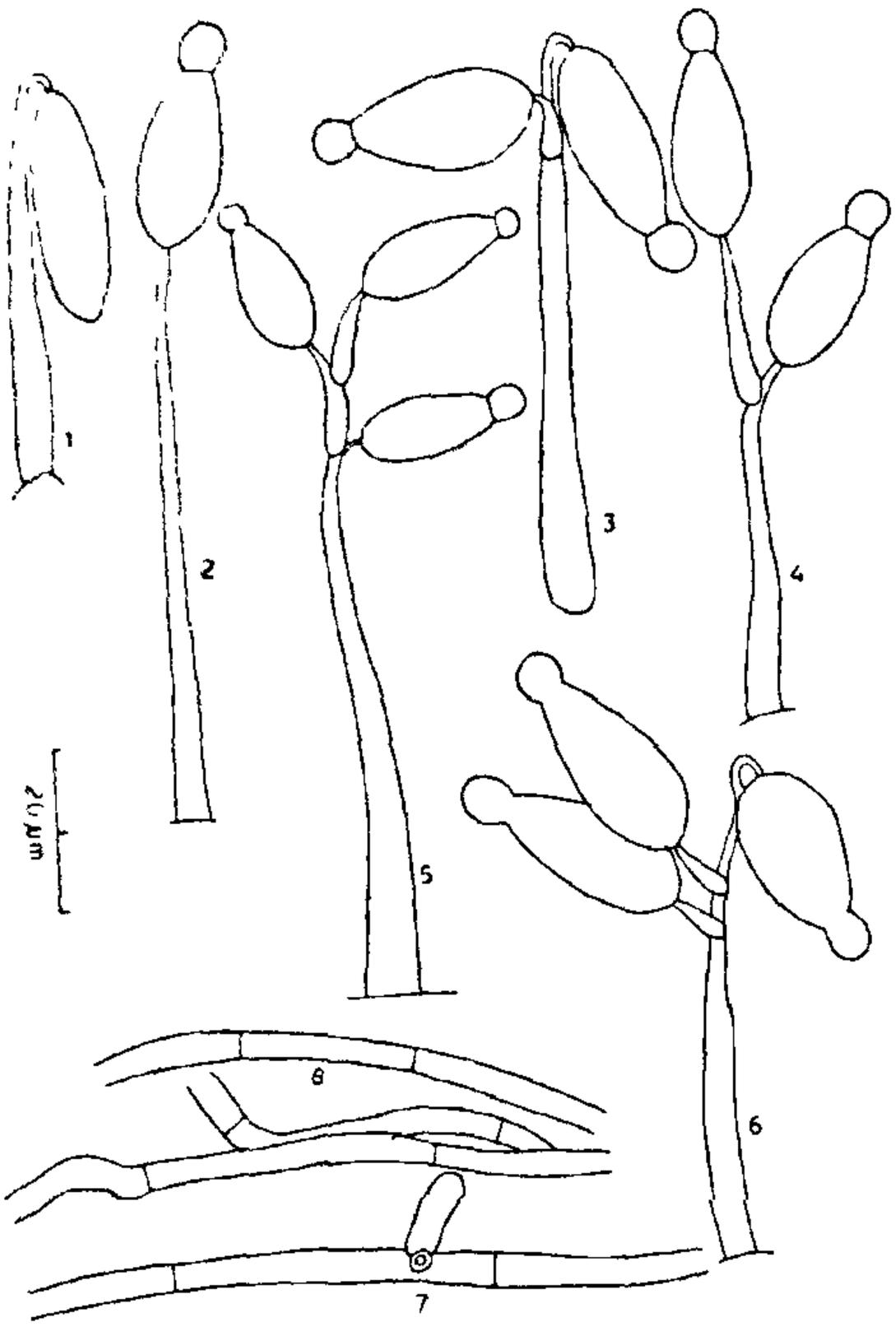

Figures 1–8. *Lecythispora indica* gen et sp nov **1.** Conidiophore bearing conidium without terminal protuberance. **2.** Simple conidiophore bearing lecythiform conidium, **3, 4.** Conidiophores bearing two denticles and bearing conidia, **5, 6.** Conidiophores bearing three denticles. **7.** Septate mycelium showing emergence of conidiophore and **8.** Septate mycelium of the fungus.

been reported in *S. rhyncospora*[2] and *S. anomala*[3]. These protuberances are later delimited. Also the conidia in these two species are borne on simple or branched conidiophores. But the new genus differs with the above species in having septate mycelium, denticulate conidiophores and persistent protuberance of the conidium which is filled with the cytoplasm.

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A NEW FRUIT ROT OF GUAVA CAUSED BY *SCLEROTIUM ROLFSII*

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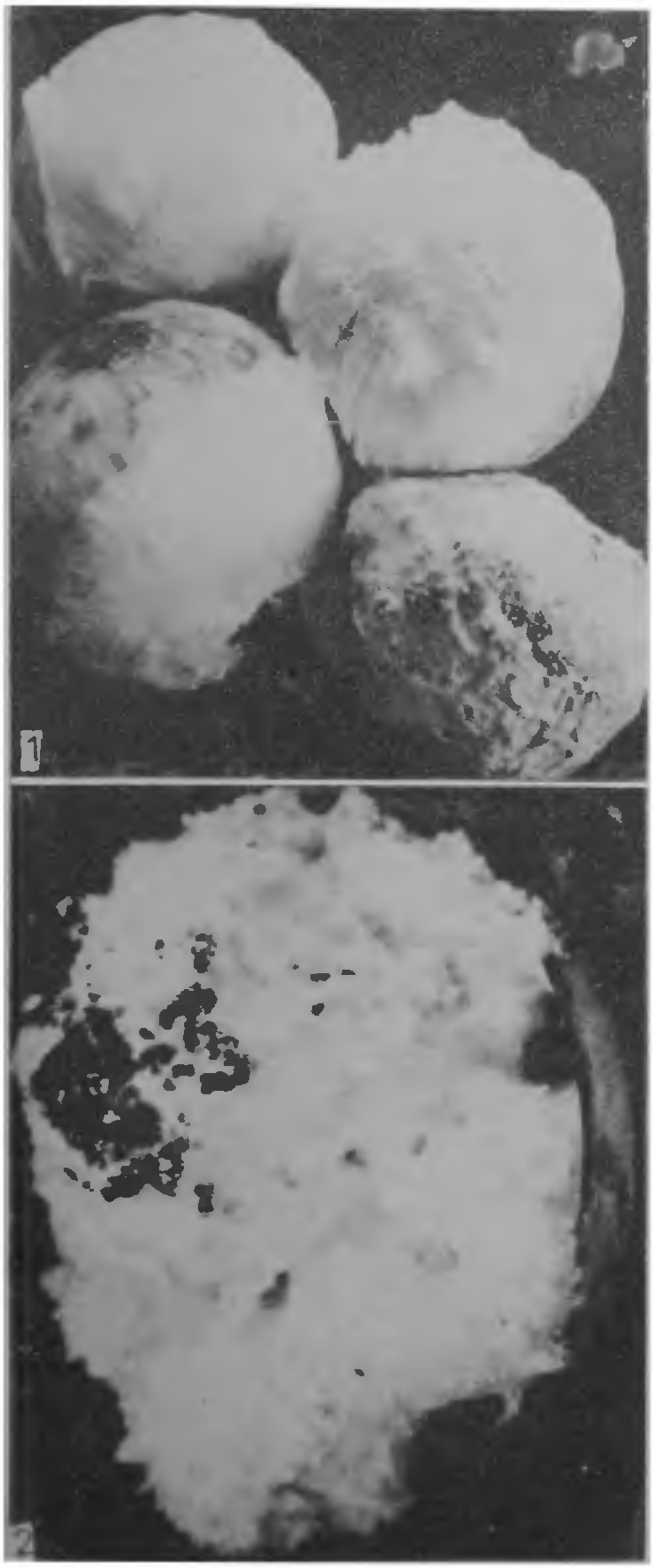
DURING the surveys undertaken for storage diseases of fruits at various local markets, a new disease of guava was noticed. The incidence of the disease varied from 1–2% during storage. The disease was also noticed occasionally in the field on low hanging fruits before harvest.

Isolations made from the infected fruits collected from the market and field uniformly yielded *Sclerotium rolfsii*. Pathogenicity tests were conducted on ripe and unripe fruits with and without injury. Infection appeared within 48 hr followed by rotting within 6 to 8 days after inoculation. The infected fruits were entirely covered with white fluffy mycelium which on further incubation produced round to oval mustard-like sclerotia. Infected fruits were kept under laboratory conditions and the viability of the sclerotia was tested periodically by inoculating the healthy fruits of guava. It was observed that sclerotia were viable and caused infection even after one year. Infection occured without any injury and the fan-shaped mycelium spreads very fast covering the entire surface of the fruit within a week. In a heap, infection spreads very fast from fruit to fruit during storage. After a week brown mustard shaped sclerotia characteristic of the species *S. rolfsii* developed.

S. rolfsii which is primarily a soil-borne pathogen has also earlier been reported to be associated with the rotting of vegetables[1] and fruits[2,3] in storage. However, review of literature indicated no previous record of this fungus on guava. It is interesting to note that Sumbali and Malhotra[4] found guava to be a resistant host to *S. rolfsii* isolated from pears which is quite contrary to our results.



Figures 1, 2. 1. Early symptoms after artificial inoculation, note the fan-shaped mycelium and early production of Sclerotia. **2.** Few infected fruits with abundant fluffy mycelium and dark Sclerotia.

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PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF B-CHROMOSOME IN THE SILKWORM *ANTHERAEA ROYLEI* (LEPIDOPTERA: SATURNIIDAE)

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SCRUTINY of cytogenetic literature of insects reveals that the occurrence of B-chromosomes is more frequent in the orders with monocentric chromosomes than in those with holokinetic chromosomes[1-4]. Among the latter, the order Lepidoptera which includes a large number of species is exemplified by very few reports of B-chromosomes. The present communication reports the existence of a B-chromosome in a natural population of Saturniid moth *Antheraea roylei*.

Four males of *A. roylei* were collected from Batote (Jammu and Kashmir). The testes of the early pupal stages were removed after vivisection in insect Ringer's solution. Following the chromosome preparation technique[5], meiotic chromosome preparations were made. Only metaphase-I cells were screened since no other stages of meiosis were discernible during the pupal stage. In addition to these four individuals from the natural population, fifteen F_1 male hybrid individuals derived from crosses of *A. roylei* females and *A. perneyi* males also constituted the material for cytological investigation. A quantitative survey of chiasma frequency of B-chromosome containing cells and non B-chromosome containing cells from the wild males has been made to study whether the presence