

particular compound are inferred in a species since genetic potentialities alone should be considered as of taxonomic importance and not the variation which is often inconsistent⁹.

Leucoanthocyanins were absent from the herbaceous and semi-woody species of *Cassia* studied here. This observation is in conformity with the earlier findings on other leguminous taxa^{1,2}. Leucoanthocyanins were absent from the yellow-flowered species of *Cassia*, these are known to contain a large number of anthraquinones, xanthone, cassiixanthone⁴ or barakol¹⁰. The importance of leucoanthocyanins in the systematics of the genus is emphasized by their correlation with woodiness and pink to red flowers. The taxonomic importance of a character increases with its correlatability with other characters¹¹. In the Fabaceae, the absence of leucoanthocyanins was also correlated with epulvinate condition and with affliction by *Uromyces*¹². In the Caesalpinaceae such information is yet unavailable.

C. montana, *C. alata*, *C. carnavall* and *C. timorensis* did not contain either saponins or leucoanthocyanins while *C. nodosa*, *C. javanica*, *C. grandis*, *C. renigera* and *C. roxburghii* were positive for both the compounds. Nevertheless, the rest of the data indicate that the occurrence of saponins and leucoanthocyanins in *Cassia* is independent of each other.

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STUDIES IN NEMATOPHAGOUS FUNGI. XI: *MERISTACRUM ASTEROSPERMUM*—A NEW RECORD FROM INDIA

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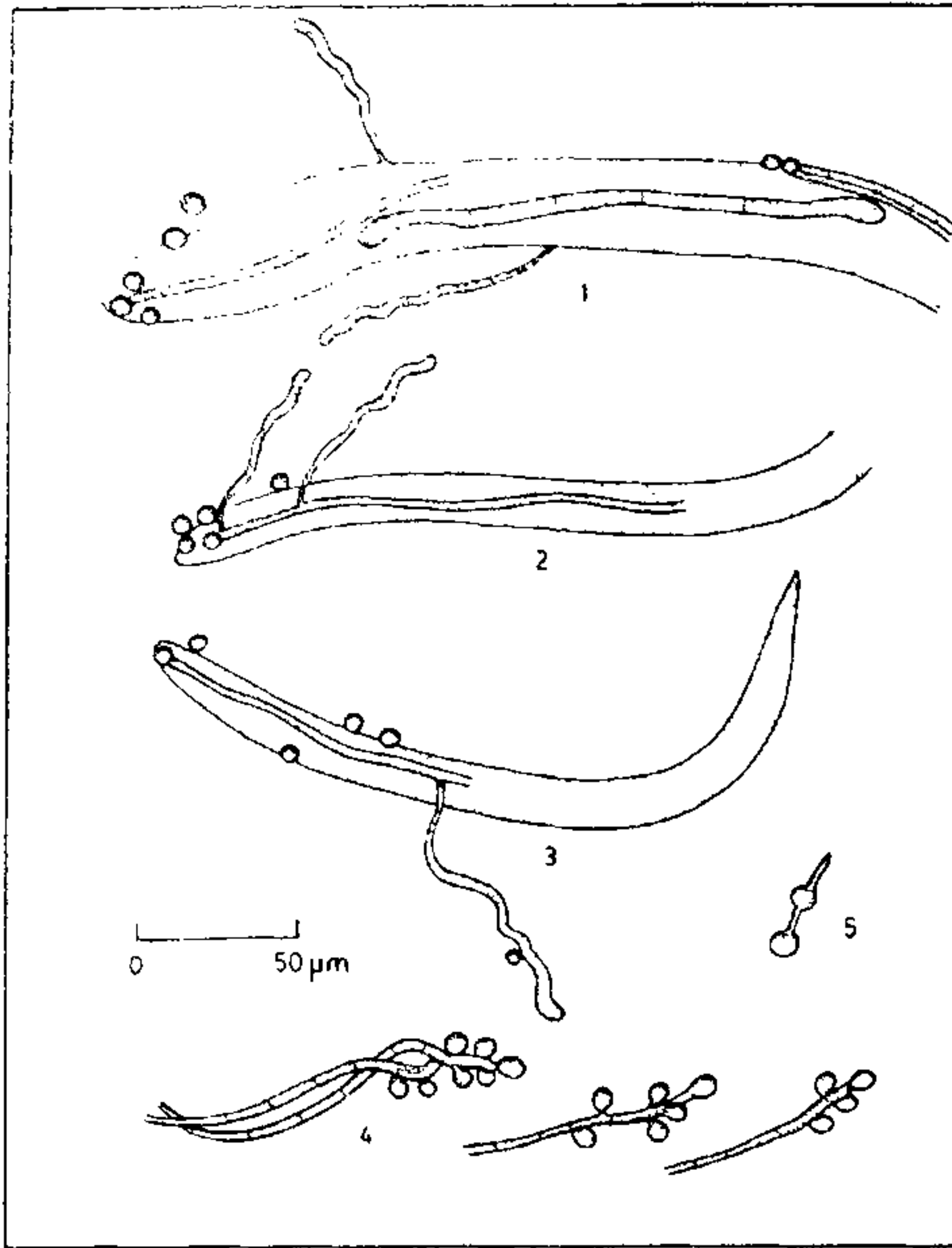
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WHILE studying nematophagous fungi of Varanasi, a member of Zygomycetes was encountered attacking nematodes. A species of *Meristacrum* is reported for the first time from India as endoparasite of nematode. Only two species of *Meristacrum* are known to parasitize nematodes. *M. asterospermum* has been reported by Drechsler¹ and redescribed by Davidson and Barron². McCulloch³ has described *M. pendulatum* from soils of Queensland. The characters which differentiate the two species are the division of the conidiophore into a number of cells and the shape of conidia. In *M. asterospermum*, only the terminal portion of the conidiophore is divided into cells whereas in *M. pendulatum*, the whole length of the conidiophore is divided into cells.

A detailed account of the chief structural features of *M. asterospermum* Drechsler has been given in this paper. The fungus was isolated using baited plates technique described by Barron⁴. Petri plates containing 2% maize meal agar were baited with heavy suspension of nematodes. Then soil samples were sprinkled on plates. After incubating for a week or so at 25 ± 2°C, the plates were examined. A large number of nematodes were found infected with the fungus.

Meristacrum asterospermum Drechsler: Primary infec-



Figures 1–5. *Meristacrum asterospermum*: 1. Infected nematode with thalli inside, sticky conidia adhering to its cuticle and conidiophores emerging. 2 & 3. Thalloidic segment inside the nematodes producing conidiophores with spirally coiled tips. 4. Conidiophores with conidia attached at tip region. 5. Conidium germinating to produce secondary conidium $\times 400$.

tion of nematodes is due to sticky nature of conidia which adhere instantly to any part of susceptible nematodes that contact them. Nematodes were observed to be covered with a large number of conidia along with their body and were not rubbed off. After penetrating the host, the germ tube produces swollen body which develops into a stout assimilative hypha. These hyphae were $3.5\text{--}6.2\ \mu\text{m}$ thick, extending lengthwise until all the contents of the nematode are consumed. The thalli break up into regular segments. These segments produced conidiophores which were bent, $50.4\text{--}117.6\ \mu\text{m}$ long, $2.5\text{--}3.5\ \mu\text{m}$ wide at the base and $4.2\text{--}5.5\ \mu\text{m}$ wide at the distal end. Successive cross walls are formed towards spirally coiled sporogenous tip. Three to seven conidia were produced in basipetal succession at the helical part of the conidiophore. Conidia were obovoid, sticky and measuring $5.3\text{--}8.2\ \mu\text{m}$ in diameter. Conidia on the agar surface produced secondary conidium after germination.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIXTH CONVENTION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SEDIMENTOLOGISTS

The Sixth Convention of the Indian Association of Sedimentologists is scheduled to be held from 21 to 24 October, 1986 at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehra Dun on the theme 'Sedimentation and tectonics in Indian subcontinent' along with a two days field excursion in the Lesser Himalayan Belt of Garhwal region. Abstracts of papers not exceeding

500 words may be submitted by **30 June 1986**. All enquiries should be addressed to Dr R. A. K. Srivastava, Organising Secretary (Convener) VI-Convention, I.A.S., Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Gen. Mahadev Singh Road, Dehra Dun 248 001.