

Most of the species of *Riccia* have larger spores with reticulate exine² except *R. frostii*, a species with smooth-walled rhizoids¹, in which the spores are smaller having vermiculae, lamellae, a few papillae and reticulations. Similar but spinate spores have been reported in foliose Jungermanniales which are thought to be the probable ancestors of Marchantiales³. Though according to Schuster⁴ the complex spore wall ornamentation found in large spored Marchantiales should not be expected in foliose Jungermanniales, present observations suggest *R. frostii* to be more close to Jungermanniales in its wholly smooth walled rhizoids and smaller size of spores with similar ornamentation pattern.

Specimen examined: The vouched specimens have been deposited in the herbarium of Environment Research Centre, Feroze Gandhi College, Rae Bareilly. ERC 33/85. Loc.: On the bank of River Ganga at Dalmau, Date: October 7, 1985; Coll. and Det.: D. C. Pandey, A. Kumar and A. K. Sinha.

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AMOMUM SUBULATUM, A NEW HOST FOR PHAKOPSORA ELLETARIAE (RACIB.) CUMMINS FROM SIKKIM

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LARGE cardamom (*Amomum subulatum*) is an important spice and medicinal crop, cultivated commercially in Sikkim. During a survey of plant diseases in Sikkim a rust disease was found to be

common on large cardamom plantations of the State in areas 1800 m above M. S. L. The disease was mostly observed during May and June on the lower leaves of the plants in the form of numerous, minute, brown uredosori on the lower surface of the leaves. In the early stages of development, the uredosori were surrounded by chlorotic haloes. In severe cases, the whole leaf blade was covered by uredosori causing premature drying of the leaves.

On the basis of the symptoms and morphological characters the causative fungus was indentified as *Phakopsora elletariae* (Racib.) Cummins. A perusal of the literature¹ indicates that the fungus has not been earlier reported and therefore this is a new specific record from India. The diseased specimens have been deposited in CMI, Kew, England under reference No. I.M.I. 280009.

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A NEW VARIETY OF HOPEA PONGA (DENNST.) MABBERLY (DIPTEROCARPACEAE) FROM COORG DISTRICT, KARNATAKA

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SOME populations of *Hopea ponga* (Dennst.) Mabblerly were observed and collected from Coorg District, Karnataka which on critical studies revealed certain characters which are different from the typical variety. These specimens were also compared at the herbaria of Botanical Survey of India at MH, CAL and BSI but did not match. Hence, this interesting taxon is now described with illustrations as a new variety.

Hopea ponga (Dennst.) Mabblerly var. *cauveriana* Keshav. et Yog. var. nov.

Affinis *Hopea ponga* (Dennst.) Mabblerly var.