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### TRICHODERMA PSEUDOKONINGII RIFAI—A NEW RECORD OF LIGNOCELLULOLYTIC FUNGUS FROM INDIA

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A fast growing green fungus which exhibited high lignocellulolytic activity frequently occurred as a contaminant during solid state fermentation of lignocellulosic materials like cassava starch factory waste and paddy straw for protein enrichment. The fungus was isolated into pure culture and maintained on Martin's Rose Bengal Agar medium. The fungus was identified as *Trichoderma pseudokoningii* Rifai.

Mycelium forms sparse hyphal network—Branched septate, smooth walled and colourless. Hyphae 1–10  $\mu$  in diameter. Chlamydospores globose, smooth-walled, hyaline-6–10  $\mu$  in diameter. Long conidiophores, with numerous main branches which are also relatively long and are 4–5  $\mu$  in diameter. Phialides measure (5.5–8)  $\times$  (2.7/3.5  $\mu$ ). Phialospores are produced singly and successively and accumulate into a globose conidial head at the tip of each phialide. They are shortly subcylindrical or almost oblong and somewhat angular or ellipsoidal, usually rounded distally and attenuated below into a short and truncate conical base. The phialospores are green in mass but appear much paler when viewed singly, perfectly smooth-walled and measure (3.4–4.6)  $\times$  (2–2.5  $\mu$ ). Rifai<sup>1</sup> described the characteristics of *T. pseudokoningii* in detail.

This is the first record of the occurrence of *T. pseudokoningii* in India on lignocellulosic substrates.

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### A NEW SPIDER SPECIES FROM GUJARAT, INDIA

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DURING extensive surveys for exploring the spider fauna of Gujarat, a peculiar member belonging to the genus *Poltys*, Koch, C. L. (Family: Araneidae) was noticed on a tree near Bhavnagar. This family comprises of typical orb-weavers spinning true webs of great geometrical precision and beauty<sup>1–4</sup>. Our collection showed marked differences from the known species<sup>5–7</sup>, and hence it is designated as a new species and named *Poltys bhavnagarensis* sp. nov. after the place of collection. Though the members of the other genera of this family are reported to be abundant in our country, only scanty information is available about the distribution of species belonging to the genus *Poltys*.

*Poltys bhavnagarensis* sp. nov.:

#### General

Cephalothorax and legs light brown, abdomen yellowing with black patches. Total length 13 mm. Carapace 4.50 mm long, 4.30 mm wide; abdomen 9.50 mm long, 8.40 mm wide.

#### Cephalothorax

Longer than wide, clothed with whitish pubescence. Cephalic region elevated, conical and anteriorly projecting; thoracic region provided with fovea; median cephalic region yellowish with white pubescence extending up to the ocular quad. Ocular quad wider than long, wider behind than in front; posterior medians rounded, laterals widely separated from each other than to medians. Sternum heart-shaped, pointed behind, light brown in the middle, clothed with greyish pubescence and brown hairs; labium wider than long, brown in colour; maxillae brownish, broad with white inner margin, provided with distal scopulae as in figure 1c; Chelicerae strong, yellowish brown with prominent boss, inner margin of chelicerae armed with three teeth and outer margin with two teeth. Legs moderately long and strong, clothed with hairs and spines; all patella and tibia are dorsally flattened.