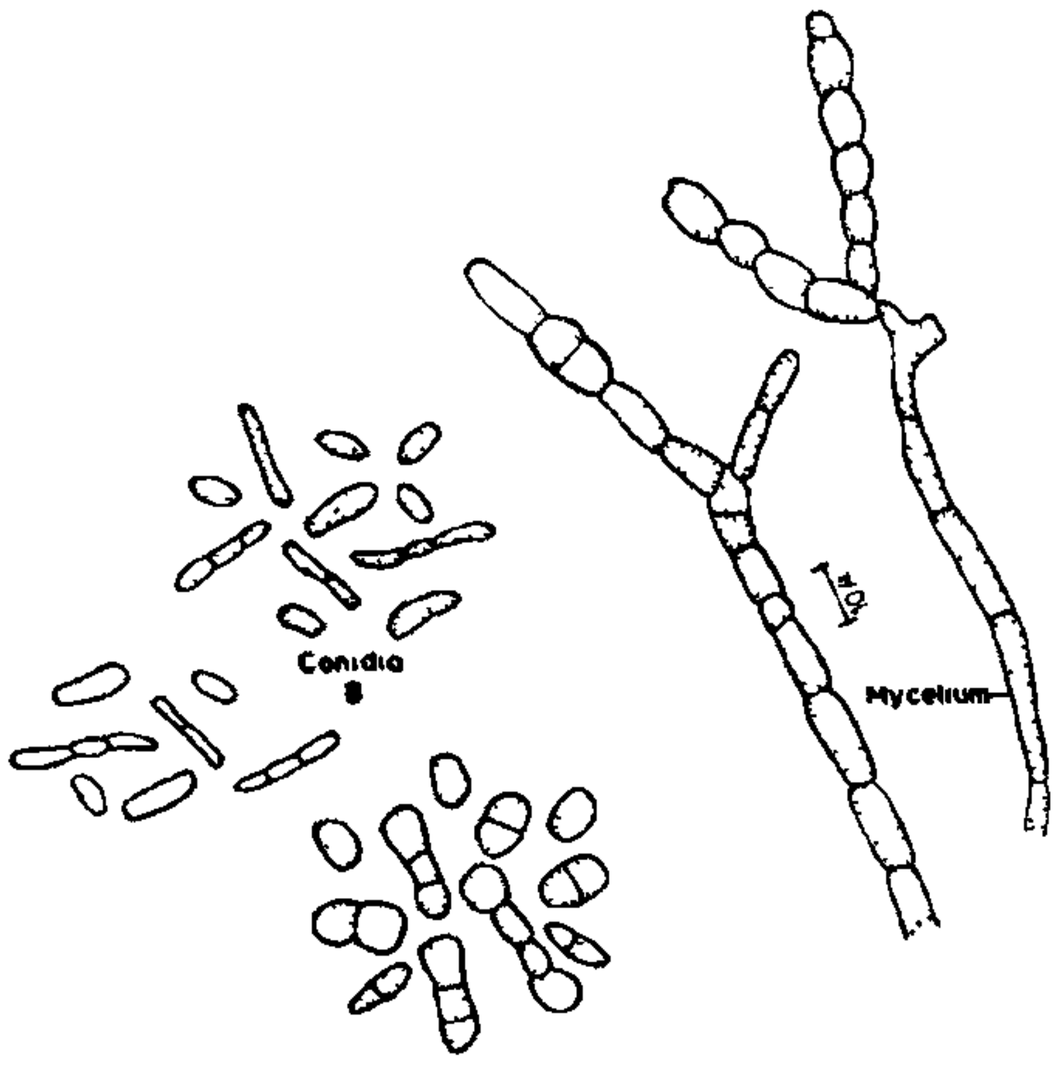

Figure 1. *Scytalidium tectonae.*

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OCCURRENCE OF WATER-BORNE CONIDIAL FUNGI ON *PINUS ROXBURGHII* NEEDLES

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AQUATIC hyphomycetous fungi, now known as water-borne conidial fungi, predominantly occur on submerged dead leaves of a variety of deciduous dicotyledonous trees[1,2], and are absent or very rarely present on conifer needles[3]. Taxo-ecological work in India indicates that these fungi are unable to colonize submerged conifer needles[4,5].

During a study on aquatic hyphomycetous fungi of the Kumaun Himalaya, samples of grey-black submerged needles of *Pinus roxburghii* from a freshwater stream, the Niglat, were collected from different spots in separate polythene bags. These needles were washed thoroughly under running tap-water and finally rinsed in sterile distilled water to remove extraneous sediments and invertebrates. The leaves were cut into small pieces and incubated in petri dishes containing sterilized stream water at room temperature (15–20°C). On alternate days the needles were examined for the presence of water-borne conidial fungi.

A total of nine species belonging to eight genera of water-borne conidial fungi were observed. Among these, *Lunulospora cymbiformis* Miura and *Tricelophorus monosporus* Ingold were found to be dominant over other species. The conidia of *Clavariopsis aquatica* de Wild., *Lunulospora curvula* Ingold, *Flabellospora verticillata* Alasoadura, *Tetrachaetum elegans* Ingold, *Tricladium splendens* Ingold, *Campylospora chaetocladia* Ranzoni and *Alatospora acuminata* Ingold were found to be less common in occurrence.

The occurrence of such a large number of species of these fungi at a time on *P. roxburghii* needles suggests their involvement, hitherto unreported, in the decomposition of *P. roxburghii* needle litter in freshwater habitats.

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