



A new black mildew fungus *Meliola erumeliensis* from Idukki, Kerala, India

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During a survey of meliolaceous fungi in Idukki District of Kerala State, authors came across the plant, *Drypetes elata*, infected with a black mildew fungus. Microscopic examination of the fungus revealed the presence of a new species of the genus *Meliola* which is described here.

Meliola erumeliensis sp. nov.
(Fig. 1)

Coloniae hypophyllae, subdensae, ad 2mm diam., confluentes. Hyphae rectae vel subrectae, oppositae vel irregulariter acuteque vel laxe ramosae, laxae vel arte reticulatae, cellulae 11-32 x 6-8µm. Appressoria plerumque opposita, alternata, recta vel curvula, antrorsa, subantrorsa vel retrorsa, 9-22µm longa; cellulae basillares cylindraceae vel cuneatae, 2-8µm longae; cellulae apicales ovatae, oblongae, integrae vel plerumque angularis, 8-16 x 8-11µm. Phialides appressoriis mixtus, numerosae, oppositae vel alternatae, ampulliformes, 11-22 x 6-10µm. Setae myceliales simplices, anfractuae, uncinatae, ad apicem obtusae, ad 294µm longae. Perithecia globosa, dispersa vel aggregata, ad 176µm diam.; ascospores obovoideae, 4-septatae, constrictae ad septatae, 36-43 x 17-21µm.

Colonies hypophyllous, subdense, up to 2mm in diameter, confluent. Hyphae straight to substraight, branching opposite to irregular at acute to wide angles, loosely to closely reticulate, cells 11-32 x 6-8µm. Appressoria mostly opposite, alternate, straight to curved, antrorse, subantrorse to retrorse, 9-22µm long; stalk cells cylindrical to cuneate, 2-8µm long; head cells

ovate, oblong, entire to predominantly angular, 8-16 x 8-11µm. Phialides mixed with appressoria, numerous, opposite to alternate, ampulliform, 11-22 x 6-10 µm. Mycelial setae simple, crooked, uncinatae, obtuse at the tip, up to 294µm long. Perithecia globose, scattered to grouped, up to 176µm in diameter; ascospores obovoidal, 4-septate, constricted at the septa, 36- 43 x 17-21µm.

Material examined

Type: 16.iii.2006, on the leaves of *Drypetes elata* (Bedd.) Pax & Hoffm. (Euphorbiaceae), Murinjapuzha, Erumeli range, Peeramed, Idukki, Kerala, India, coll. A. Nazaruddin & M.

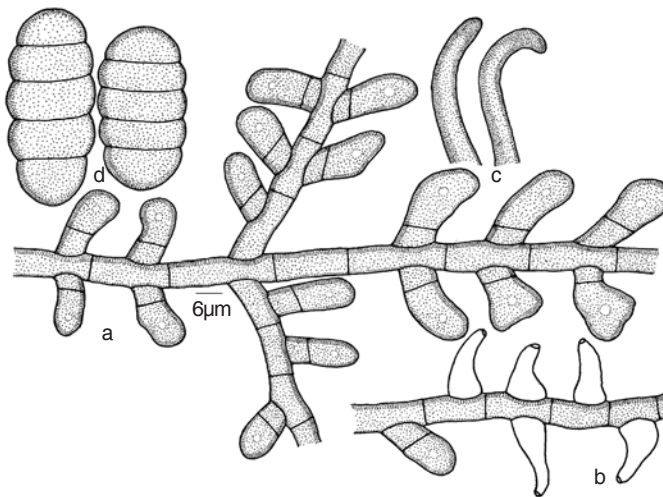


Figure 1. *Meliola erumeliensis* sp. nov.
a - Appressorium; b - Phialide; c - Apical portion of the mycelial setae; d - Ascospores

Rajendraprasad HCIO 46831 (type), TBGT 2172 (isotype), (Mycobank # MB 513424)

Meliola drypeticola Hosag. is the only species known on the host genera *Drypetes* and *Epiprinus* from the Western Ghats region of Peninsular India (Hosagoudar 1996). *Meliola erumeliensis* distinctly differs from it in having crooked and uncinatae mycelial setae.

The species is named after the collection locality.

References

Hosagoudar, V.B. (1996). *Meliolales of India*. BSI, Calcutta, 363pp.



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