

saepe curvata, transverse 3-20-septata, pallide olivacea vel olivaceo-brunneola, laevia, plus minusve crassitunicata, 36-130 (75) \times 4.5-9.5 (7.5) μm .

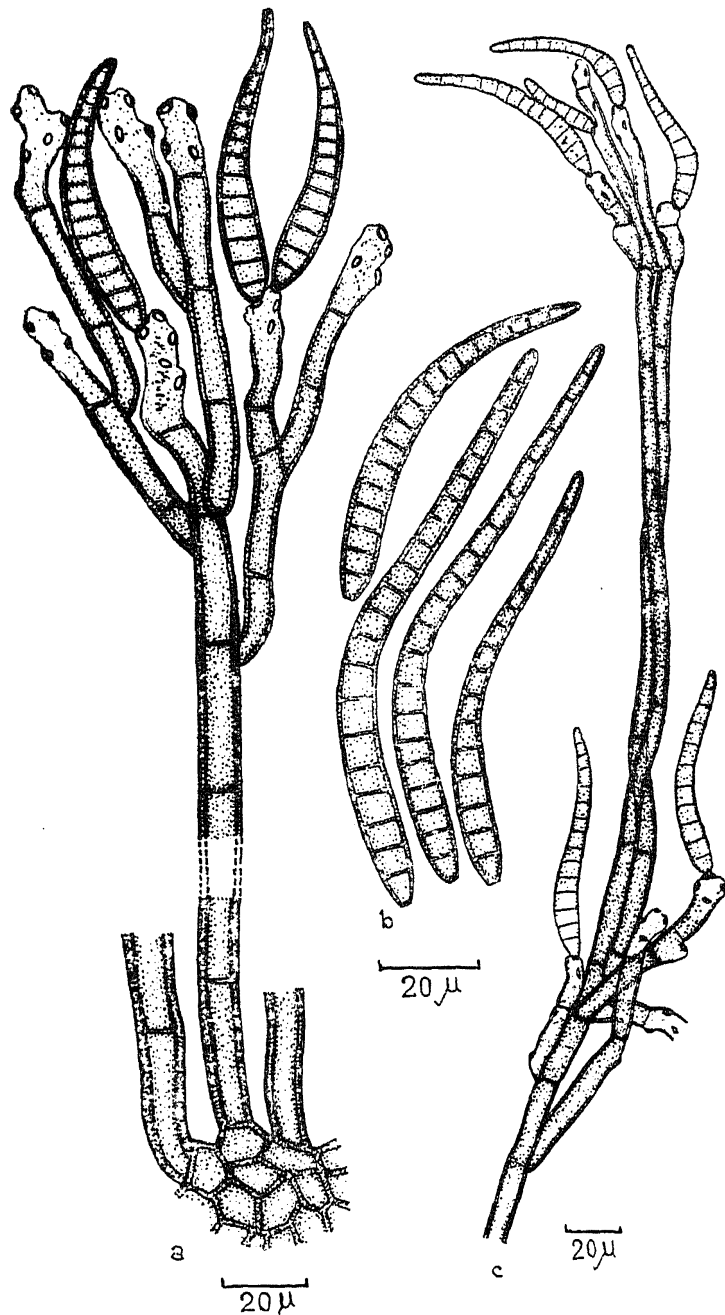


FIG. 1. *Periconiella longispara* sp. nov.
a, a conidiophore with stipe and head; b, conidia;
c, a proliferating conidiophore.

In foliis vivis *Litsea chinensis* Lamk. leg. S. Singh, 118 typum, in herb. IMI sub numero 200061 conservatum.

One of the most important and distinguishing features of this collection is the formation of the longest conidia (36-130 \times 4.5-9.5 μm) with an unusually large number of septa (3-20) among the species of the genus known so far. Further, this species does not resemble any of the known species of the genus *Periconiella* in occasional proliferation of the heads into secondary and tertiary stipes with more or less fertile heads.

This species resembles *Periconiella rapanae* Ellis² described on *Rapanae* sp., only in the shape of conidia. This resemblance, however, merits minor concern to prove the present fungus conspecific with *P. rapanae*.

The unusually large size and the number of septa in the conidia and the occasional proliferation of the branches of primary heads into secondary and tertiary stipes bearing fertile heads in the present collection warrant its description as a new species.

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POLLINATION BIOLOGY OF *CALOTROPIS GIGANTEA* (L.) R. BR.

SPECIES of *Xylocopa*, commonly known as carpenter bees have been recognised as active pollinators of *Calotropis gigantea*. Pijl¹ recorded that *Xylocopa latipes* was an established pollinator. Recently Wanntrop² has pointed out that *C. gigantea* is pollinated by several insects of which *Xylocopa tenuiscapa* appears to be the most efficient. The present study was taken up to understand the species of *Xylocopa* that are involved in the pollination of *C. gigantea* in two distant localities. The account is based on the observations made in several populations of *C. gigantea* growing around Kukkanahally tank near Manasagangotri, Mysore and near Srinivasapur, Kolar District.

Two insect species are noted to effect pollination of *C. gigantea*, in Kukkanahally tank area; they are *Xylocopa dissimilis* Lepel. (Figs. 1 to 3) and *Xylocopa collaris* Lepel. (Fig. 4) (Hymenoptera, Apidae). Both taxa are active between 0700 to 1700 hrs on bright sunny days. Species of *X. collaris* arrived in swarms while *X. dissimilis* visited individually and on several occasions it has been noted that *X. collaris* is a major pollinating agent of *C. gigantea*, near Kukkanahally tank area, while in Srinivasapur area *Xylocopa dissimilis* alone functioned as the pollinating agent.

The bee alights on a flower in a crouching position and its wings keep fluttering so long as it stays on the flower. With regard to *X. dissimilis*, the head of the