

PHÆOTRICHOCONIS, A NEW GENUS OF THE DEMATIACEÆ

BY C. V. SUBRAMANIAN, F.A.SC.

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Trichoconis crotalariae, which forms the subject of this paper, was described by Salam and Rao (1954) from a collection made in Hyderabad Deccan on leaves and pods of *Crotalaria verrucosa* L. They described the fungus as follows: "Spots irregular, white, mycelium well developed, hyphæ 3.6–6 μ thick, branched, septate when mature at intervals of 18–36 μ Conidiophores not sharply distinguishable from hyphæ, erect, septate, with swollen apex, 52–156 μ long, 3.6–6 μ broad, bearing one conidium each; conidia of a characteristic shape, elongate, fusiform with a long appendage at the apex, attached by their broad end, and having a dark scar showing the point of attachment, 5–8-septate, dark brown, not constricted at the septa, thick-walled, with granular contents; the second or third cell from the base larger than the rest, conidia 46.8–95 \times 10.4–18.2 μ ; appendage hyaline, non-septate, and slightly curved, longer than the body of the conidium, 49.4–127.5 μ" (Salam and Rao, 1954, p. 190).

The genus *Trichoconis* was established in 1909 by Clements to accommodate *Piricularia caudata* App. and Str., which was considered by him to be distinct from the genus *Piricularia* Sacc., mainly because *P. caudata* had, as its name indicates, caudate conidia (Saccardo, 1931, p. 721). Indeed, this fungus was compiled under *Appelia* Sacc., characterised as "conidia apice setigera" by Saccardo as a subgenus of *Piricularia* Sacc. (Saccardo, 1906, p. 545). A description of this fungus, from Saccardo (1906), is given below: "Maculis atro-brunneis, non-distincte limitatis; cæspitulis albidis, effusis; mycelium parum evoluto, 3–4 μ cr., hyalino; conidiophoris erectis 100–150 μ long. parce septatis, filiformibus, apice monosporis; conidiis breve fusoidis, rectiusculis, 2–4-septatis, non-constrictis, hyalinis, apice in setulam filiformem rectam v. curvulam subæquilongam productis, 36–45 \times 9–12 μ , setula 35–45 μ long." It will be clear from the above description that *Trichoconis caudata* (App. and Str.) Clem. (\equiv *Piricularia caudata* App. and Str.) which is the type species of the genus *Trichoconis*, is a moniliaceous hyphomycete with hyaline mycelium and hyaline conidia.

Trichoconis crotalariae, on the other hand, is distinctly dematiaceous, having dark-coloured mycelium and producing dark brown conidia, as

described by its authors and as confirmed by a study of the type material very kindly made available to me by the authors. It is, therefore, not congeneric with the moniliaceous *T. caudata*. I know of no other genus of the Dematiaceæ-Phragmosporæ in which it can be placed and I am, therefore, proposing a new genus for it. The generic name being proposed, viz., *Phæotrichoconis*, indicates that it is Dematiaceous, but otherwise resembles *Trichoconis*.

Phæotrichoconis Subramanian gen. nov.

Pertinet ad Fungos Imperfectos, ad Dematiaceas, atque ad Phragmosporas.

Hyphæ repentes brunneæ, ramosæ, septatæ. Conidiophori haud clare separabilis ad hyphis, erecti, septati, apice tumescentes, unum conidium ferentet singuli. Conidia acrogena, brunnea, elongata, fusiformia, appendice longa ad apicem ornata, sæpe transverse septata.

Fungus Imperfectus, Dematiaceæ, Phragmosporæ.

Repent hyphæ brown, branched, septate. Conidiophores not sharply distinguished from hyphæ, erect, septate, with swollen apex, each bearing apically and singly one conidium. Conidia acrogenous, brown, elongate, fusiform, with a long appendage at the apex, many times transversely septate.

Type species

Phæotrichoconis crotalariae (Salam and Rao) Subramanian comb. nov.

Basonym.—*Trichoconis crotalariae* Salam and Rao, 1954, in *J. Indian bot. Soc.*, 33, 191, ic.

Type.—On leaves and pods of *Crotalaria verrucosa* L., Agricultural College Farm, Osmania University, Hyderabad-Deccan, 22-4-1953, coll. M. A. Salam and P. N. Rao; culture deposited at the Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew (Herb. IMI 52821).

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REFERENCES

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