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***Leptocorticium indicum* sp. nov. from India**

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ABSTRACT — A new corticioid species, *Leptocorticium indicum*, is described on a decaying log of *Rhododendron arboreum* from Uttarakhand state in India.

KEY WORDS — *Agaricomycetes*, Tehri Garhwal, Kaddukhal

While conducting fungal forays in Kaddukhal area of district Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, India, Samita and Sanyal collected an unknown corticioid fungus on a decaying log of *Rhododendron arboreum*. On the basis of macroscopic and microscopic features and comparison with available literature (Hjortstam & Ryvar den 2002, Nakasone 2005, Bernicchia & Gorjón 2010, Gorjón & Saitta 2014), we found the species different but closely related to the known species of *Leptocorticium*, hence the description of a new species in this genus. The material was also analyzed by Prof. Nils Hallenberg, who supported the concept of a new species within *Leptocorticium*.

***Leptocorticium indicum* Samita, Sanyal & Dhingra, sp. nov.**

PLATES 1, 2

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Differs from *Leptocorticium tenellum* in having larger basidia, smaller broadly ellipsoid to ovate to subglobose basidiospores, and presence of gloecystidia and from *L. gloecystidiatum* in having broadly ellipsoid to ovate to subglobose basidiospores.

TYPE: India, Uttarakhand, Tehri Garhwal, Kaddukhal, on decaying log of *Rhododendron arboreum* Sm. (*Ericaceae*), 20 August 2010, Samita 6092 (PUN, holotype).

ETYMOLOGY: The epithet refers to the country of the type collection.

Basidiocarp resupinate, effused, adnate, ≤ 80 μm thick in section; hymenial surface smooth, grayish orange; margins thinning, fibrillose, paler concolorous, or indeterminate. Hyphal system monomitic. Generative hyphae ≤ 4.5 μm wide, septate, clamped, thin- to thick-walled, with or without oily contents;



PLATE 1. *Leptocorticium indicum* (holotype). Basidiocarp.

basal hyphae parallel to substrate, less branched; subhymenial hyphae vertical, more densely branched. Dendrohyphidia abundant, irregularly branched, non-dextrinoid, with thin to slightly thickened walls. Gloeocystidia $61\text{--}72 \times 7.5\text{--}9 \mu\text{m}$, flexuous, with round to moniliform tips, embedded to projecting $\leq 40 \mu\text{m}$ out of hymenium, with basal clamp and oily contents negative to sulphovanillin. Basidia $41\text{--}51 \times 6.6\text{--}7.7 \mu\text{m}$, clavate, 4-sterigmate, with basal clamp, with or without oily contents; sterigmata $\leq 7.5 \mu\text{m}$ long. Basidiospores $5.5\text{--}6.6 \times 3.3\text{--}4.4 \mu\text{m}$, broadly ellipsoid to ovate to subglobose, thin-walled, inamyloid, acyanophilous.

REMARKS— This species is placed in *Leptocorticium* based on the presence of a thin and poorly developed subiculum, catahymenium with abundant dendrohyphidia, flexuous gloeocystidia, and clavate basidia. *Leptocorticium tenellum* Nakasone differs from *L. indicum* by its larger, cylindrical to ellipsoid to sub-fusiform basidiospores ($7\text{--}9.5 \times 3\text{--}5 \mu\text{m}$), absence of gloeocystidia, and smaller, usually utriform basidia ($15\text{--}26 \times 4.5\text{--}8 \mu\text{m}$; Nakasone 2005). *Leptocorticium gloeocystidiatum* Gorjón & Saitta differs from *L. indicum* by its smaller, ellipsoid basidiospores ($4\text{--}5 \times 2.5\text{--}3 \mu\text{m}$) and smaller basidia ($15\text{--}20 \times 3\text{--}4 \mu\text{m}$; Gorjón & Saitta 2014).

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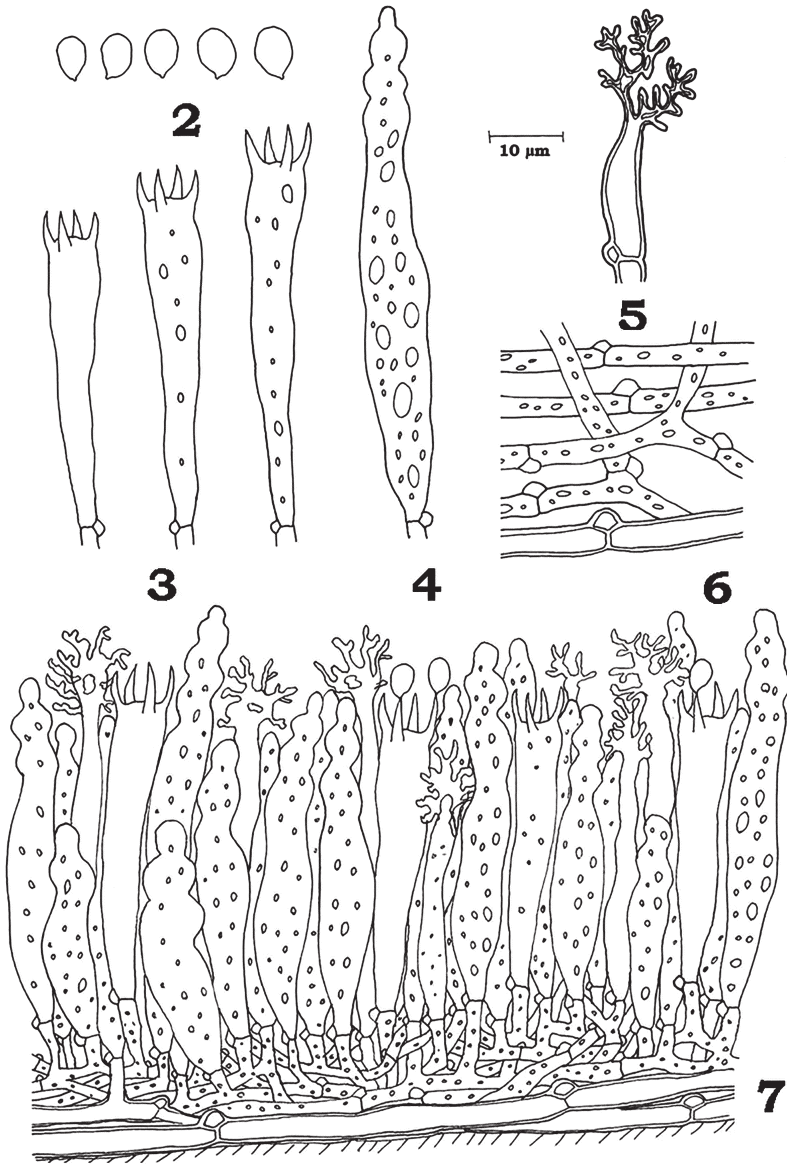


PLATE 2. *Leptocorticium indicum* (holotype).

1. Basidiospores. 2. Basidia. 3. Cystidium. 4. Dendrohyphidium.

5. Hyphae. 6. Vertical section through basidiocarp.

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