

Veramyces, a new hyphomycete genus from Kumaon Himalayas

C. V. SUBRAMANIAN

Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants P.O. CIMAP,
Lucknow-226015, India

Subramanian C. V. (1993): *Veramyces*, a new hyphomycete genus from Kumaon Himalayas
Czech Mycol. 47: 3-5

This paper describes the phialidic synanamorph of the *Oedemium* state of *Thaxteria phaeostroma* from a collection made on dead twigs from Kilbury, Naini Tal, U.P. in the Kumaon Himalayas. The phialidic form is accommodated in a new genus, *Veramyces* as a new species, *V. elegans*.

Key words: *Thaxteria phaeostroma*, *Oedemium* state, *Veramyces elegans* India

Subramanian C. V. (1993): *Veramyces*, nový rod hyfomycetů z Kumaonských Himálajů
Czech Mycol. 47: 3-5

Je popsána fialidická synanamorfa oedemiového stadia druhu *Thaxteria phaeostroma* (Dur. et Mont.) Booth, podle sběru z odumřelých větvíček sbíraných v Kilbury, údolí Naini, U.P. v Kumaonských Himálajích. Fialidická forma je považována za nový rod *Veramyces* a druh *Veramyces elegans*.

This paper deals with the discovery and description of a phialidic synanamorph of the *Oedemium* state of *Thaxteria phaeostroma* (Dur. & Mont.) Booth. A collection assignable to this fungus was made by the author from Naini Tal, Uttar Pradesh in the Kumaon Himalayas in India. Apart from *Oedemium* conidiophores and conidia, the fungus was connected to a phialidic synanamorph; it also produced dark brown multicellular bodies (? gemmae). The following is a description of the fungus.

Colonies brown to black, effuse, velvety. Mycelium composed of stout, branched, septate hyphae 8-12 μm wide. Branches dichotomous, often later appearing subdichotomous; ultimate branches setose, septate, acicular and pointed, or non-setose, cylindrical, dark brown, smooth, up to 400 μm long, 8-12 μm wide. Conidiogenous cells integrated, apical, swollen, smooth, polyblastic, up to 27 \times 15 μm in size. Conidia solitary, dry, developing simultaneously or successively on the conidiogenous cell (ampulla), ovoid, 1-2-septate, smooth, 19-23 μm long, 10-11 μm wide. Philophores arising from hyphae, lateral, simple, erect, straight or flexuous or curved, brown, stout, smooth, septate, up to 200 μm long, 9-12 μm wide, bearing a terminal cluster of branches and phialides. Branches or phialides arising from below septa and forming a cluster thereon; branches 0-2-septate, 19-23 μm long, 5-6 μm wide. Phialides terminal or lateral, lageniform, broad below, with conspicuous collarette, pale to golden brown, smooth. Conidia slimy, small, cylindrical-bacillar, one-celled, hyaline, smooth, 3.0 \times 1.5 μm .

Multicellular 'gemmae' common, formed mostly terminally on hyphae, sometimes intercalary, due to swelling of hypha or hyphal tips followed by branching and septation in a complex way; 'gemmae' irregular in shape, nondeciduous, 48–80 × 44–72 µm, often germinating to produce germ tubes from one or more cells.

The fungus is easily identifiable as the *Oedemium* state of *Thaxteria phaeostroma* (Dur. & Mont.) Booth. As far as known to me, a phialidic synanamorph has not so far been reported for this taxon. Also, I know of no phialidic genus in which this can be accommodated. A new genus *Veramyces* is proposed here to accommodate it.

The generic name is in honour of Dr. Věra Holubová-Jechová, distinguished for her work on many Dematiaceous Hyphomycetes and on tropical microfungi. Her recent demise is a great loss to tropical mycology.

***Veramyces* Subramanian anamorph gen. nov.**

Dematiaceous hyphomycete producing phialidic conidia. Conidiophores simple, brown, septate, terminating in a cluster of short branches and characteristic phialides. Phialides terminal or lateral, single or forming clusters, golden brown, lageniform, with distinct collarette. Conidia slimy, solitary, one-celled, hyaline, cylindrical to bacillar.

Synanamorph: *Oedemium*

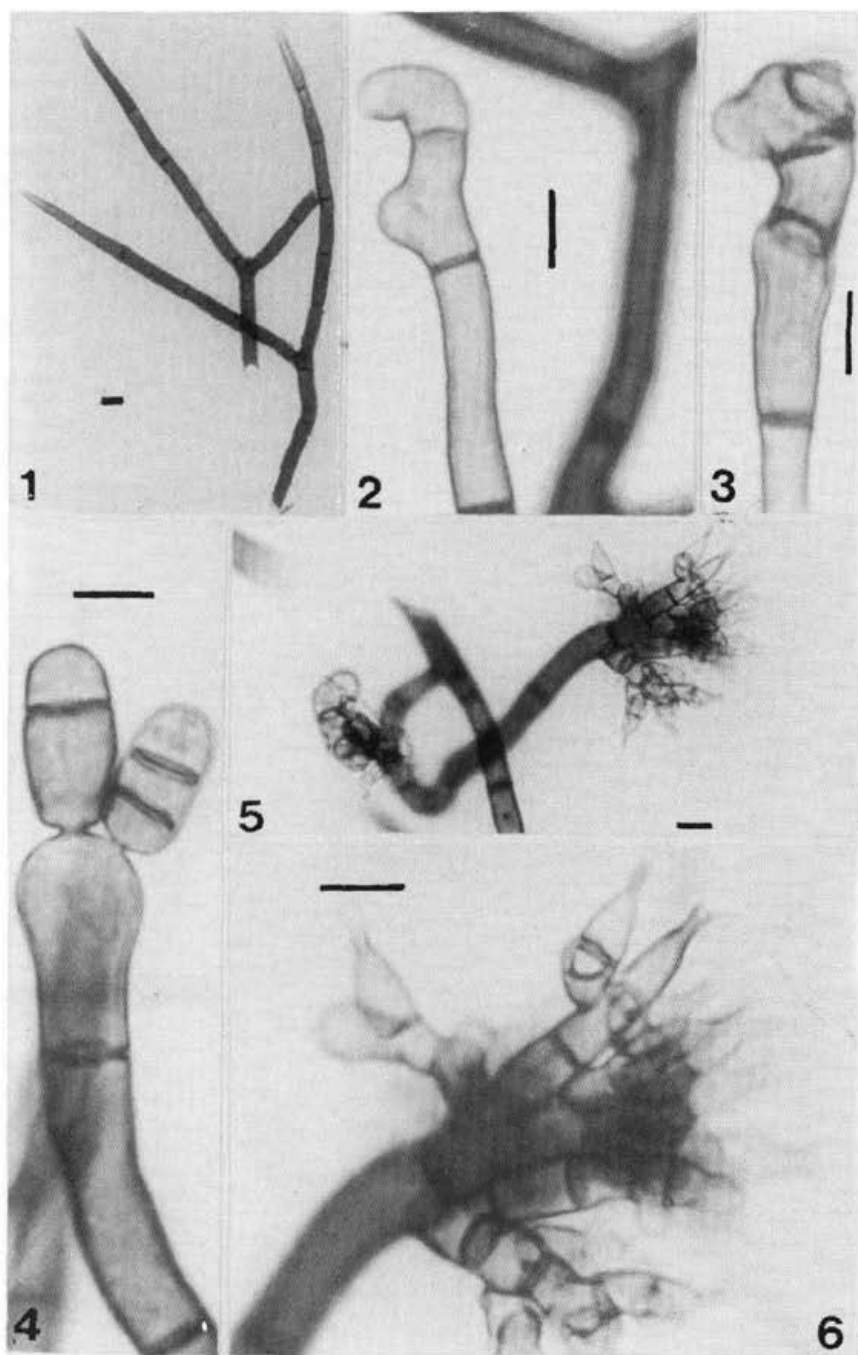
Hyphomycetes dematiacei conidia phialidica producentes. Conidiophora simplicia, brunnea, septata, in fasciculos ramorum et phialidum terminata. Phialides terminales vel laterales, aureo-brunneae, lageniformes; collare ("collarette") distincto. Conidia mucosa, solitaria, unicellularia, hyalina, cylindrica vel bacillaria.

Species typica: *Veramyces elagans* Subramanian

***Veramyces elagans* Subramanian sp. nov. anamorph.**

Coloniae brunneae vel atrae, effusae, velutinae. Mycelium ex hyphis ramosis, septatis, 8–10 µm latis compositum; ramis dichotomis, saepe posterius manifeste subdichotomis; rami terminales setosi, septati, aciculares vel acuminati vel non-setosi, cylindrici vel ad apicem rotundati. Setae usque ad 330 µm longae, 8–9 µm latae. Conidiophora simplicia, erecta, recta, flexuosa vel curvata, brunnea, laevia, septata, usque ad 200 µm longa, 9–12 µm lata, in fasciculis ramorum et phialidum terminata. Rami laterales, subseptati, 0–2-septis, 19–23 µm longi, 5–6 µm lati. Phialides terminales, vel laterales vel sub septis ortae, lageniformes, ad basim incrassatae, longicolles, aureo-brunneae, laeves, 15–20 µm longae, ad basim 4.5–6.0 µm latae vel ad apicem 1.5 µm latae. Conidia mucosa, unicellularia, hyalina, cylindrica vel bacillaria, 3.0–1.5 µm.

TYPUS lectus ad ramos emortuos, India, Kilbury, Naini Tal, Kumaon Himalayas, U.P., Coll. C.V. Subramanian, 10 Oct. 1991, sub numero NT 9.



Figs. 1-6. *Oedemium* and *Veramyces* anamorphs of *Thaxteria phaeostroma*.
 Fig. 1, setae. Figs. 2-3, development of hyphal branches and early stage in development of 'gemmae'. Fig. 4, *Oedemium* conidiophore, ampulla and conidia. Figs. 5, 6, conidiophore and phialides of the *Veramyces* state (*V. elegans*). Bars denote 10 μ m.

Synanamorpha: *Oedemium* state of *Thaxteria phaeostroma* (Dur. & Mont.) Booth.

Acknowledgements

This work was carried out during the tenure of an INSA Senior Scientist Award to me. The CSIR sponsored a Project on Taxonomy and Distribution of Microfungi. I thank the Indian National Science Academy and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for the support and the Director, CIMAP, Lucknow for having me work here and for all facilities.