

A New and Interesting Ascomycete Genus (*Pithya* Fuckel) Record for the Fungi Flora of Turkey

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Abstract: An ascomycetous genus *Pithya* Fuckel (*Sarcosyphaceae*) was recorded for the first time from Turkey.

Key Words: A new genus record, Ascomycetous Fungi, Turkish Mycoflora

Türkiye Fungus Florası İçin Yeni ve İlginç Bir Askomiset Cins (*Pithya* Fuckel) Kaydı

Özet: Bir askomiset cinsi olan *Pithya* Fuckel (*Sarcosyphaceae*) Türkiye'den ilk defa kayıt edilmiştir.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Yeni bir cins kaydı, Askomiset Funguslar, Türkiye Mikoflorası

Introduction

A specimen of an ascomycetous macrofungi collected during field trips in 2000 was identified as *Pithya vulgaris* Fuckel. The specimens were collected and identified using the methods of Watling (1973). The identification of the taxon was carried out using the work of Breitenbach & Kränzlin (1984) on ascomycetous macrofungi. In the light of the literature on Turkish macrofungi, *Pithya* Fuckel is a new genus record for Turkish mycoflora. The specimens are kept in the herbarium of the Biology Department, Selçuk University, Konya.

Description of taxon

Ascomycetes

Sarcosyphaceae

Pithya Fuckel Symbolae mycologicae, Beitrage zur kenntniss, Jahr. Nassauishen vereins naturk, 23-24: 317 (1870).

Monotypic.

Pithya vulgaris Fuckel Symbolae mycologicae, Beitrage zur kenntniss, Jahr. Nassauishen vereins naturk, 23-24: 459 (1870).

Fruiting body 4-15 mm across, circular and flat and disc-shaped (Figure 1), hymenium yolk-yellow to orange-red, smooth, sometimes rather convex, outer surface and margin lighter and frosted with white, base with whitish mycelial feltwork, stalkless or very short-stalked. Growing singly or gregariously in mixed forest of *Abies cilicica* subsp. *isaurica* and *Cedrus libani*.

Ascospores round (Figure 2), 10-15 μ across, hyaline, smooth, usually with 1 drop.

Asci eight-spored, 200-280 x 12-15 μ across.

Karaman; Ermenek Damlaçalı district, 1750 m, 14.05.2000, Doğan 596.

Conclusion

Pithya Fuckel is easily recognized by its conspicuous yolk-yellow colour, time of growing and form of spores. The species described here could be confused with some species of *Lachnellula* P.Karst which occur in the same habitats and are also yellow. However, it hardly differs macroscopically from the *Lachnellula* P.Karst by the absence of the hairs on its margin and, in contrast, it has

the same colour on the hymenium and outer surface. It differs microscopically by its round, larger spores and strikingly larger asci.



Figure 1. Ascocarps of *Pithya vulgaris*.



Figure 2. Ascospores of *Pithya vulgaris* (10 x 100).

References

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