



## A new species of the genus *Schiffnerula* (Englerulaceae) from Kerala, India

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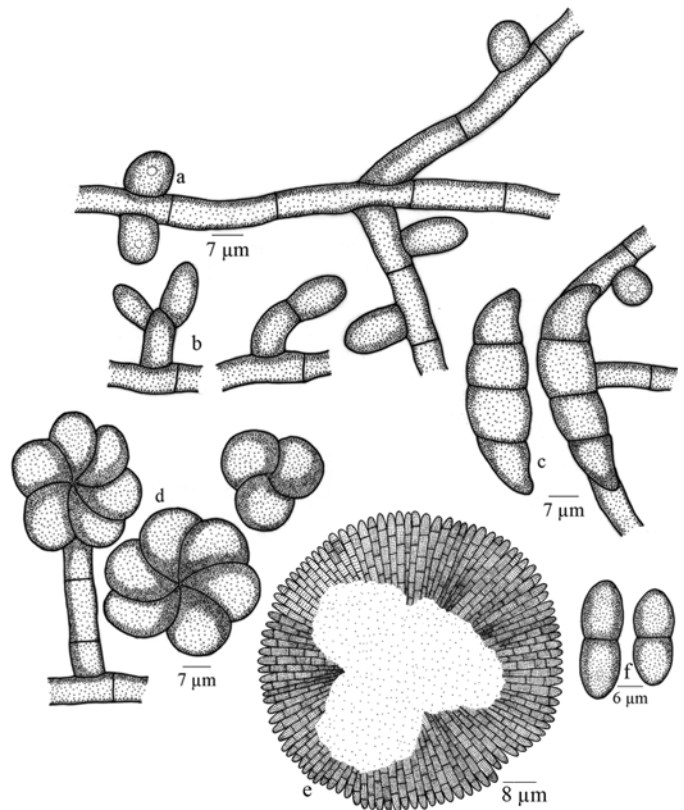
During a survey of foliicolous fungi of Kerala, a species of the genus *Canthium* was found infected with a black mildew fungus. Critical microscopic study of the fungus revealed that it belonged to an undescribed species of the genus *Schiffnerula* Höhn. and hence, it is described and illustrated in detail.

### *Schiffnerula canthii* sp. nov. (Fig.1)

Coloniae epiphyllae, subdensae, ad 2mm diam., confluentes. Hyphae flexuosae, oppositae, alternatim vel irregulariter acuteque vel laxe ramosae, laxe vel arte reticulatae, cellulae 11–27 x 6–8 µm. Appressoria alternata, unilateralis, globosa, sessilis, integra, 9–15 x 8–15 µm. Conidia *Questieriella* dispersa, pallida brunnea, fusiformes, curvula, 3-septata, constricta ad septata, attenuata ad ambi apicem, 40–48 x 11–15 µm. Conidiophora *Sarcinella* micronemata, simplices, ramosa, recta vel flexuosa, pallid brunnea, 0–2-septata, 12–40 x 5–8 µm diam.; cellulae conidiogenae monoblasticae, integratae, plerumque terminalis, cylindraceae; conidia solitaria, sicca, simplices, subspherica vel sarciniformis, 2–8 cellula, brunnea ad initio, nigra ad maturitatem, sarcinatim septata, constrictae ad septata, 20–40µm diam., parietus glabrus. Thyriothecia pauca, orbicularis, ad 75µm diam.; asci non visa; ascospores oblongae, conglobatae, brunneae, uniseptatae, constrictae, 22–26 x 8–13 µm, parietus glabrus.

Colonies amphigenous, subdense, up to 2mm in diameter, confluent. Hyphae flexuous, branching opposite, alternate to irregular at acute to wide angles, loosely to closely reticulate, cells 11–27 x 6–8 µm. Appressoria alternate, unilateral, globose, sessile, entire, 9–15 x 8–15 µm. Conidia of *Questieriella* scattered, pale brown, fusiform, curved, 3-septate, constricted at the septa, tapering towards both ends, 40–48 x 11–15 µm. *Sarcinella* conidiophores

micronematous, simple, branched, straight to flexuous, pale brown, 0–2 septate, 12–40 x 5–8 µm; conidiogenous cells monoblastic, integrated, mostly terminal, cylindrical; conidia solitary, dry, simple, subspherical to sarciniform, 2–8-celled, brown when young, carbonaceous black at maturity, sarcinately septate, constricted at the septa, 20–40µm in diameter; wall smooth. Thyriothecia few, orbicular, up to 75µm in diam.; asci not seen; ascospores oblong, conglobate, brown, uniseptate, constricted at the septum, 22–26 x 8–13 µm, wall smooth.



**Figure 1. *Schiffnerula canthii* sp. nov.**

a - Appressorium; b - Conidiophore; c - Conidia of *Questieriella* (one germinating); d - Conidiophore and conidia of *Sarcinella*; e - Thyriothecium; f - Ascospores

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**Etymology:** Named after the host

#### Material examined

**Type:** 20.ii.2007, On leaves of *Canthium* sp. (Rubiaceae), Ponnudi, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India, coll. G.R. Archana et al. HClO 48164 (type), TBGT 2900 (isotype). (Mycobank # MB513419).

*Schiffnerula craterispermi* (Hansf.) S. Hughes, *S. hendrickxii* (Hansf.) S. Hughes, *S. psychotriae* (Doidge) S. Hughes, *S. palicoureae* (M.L. Farr) S. Hughes and *S. ugandensis* (Hansf.) S. Hughes are known on different host genera of the family Rubiaceae (Hosagoudar 2003). So far there is no record of the genus *Schiffnerula* on the host genus *Canthium*. Based on the host specificity, the present fungus has been accommodated in a new species.

#### Reference

Hosagoudar, V.B. (2003). The genus *Schiffnerula* and its synonymorphs. *Zoos' Print Journal* 18: 1071-1078.

