

NOTES

Notes on *Trentepohlia monilia* de Wildeman (Chlorophyta, Ulothricales) from the campus of the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Formerly, only two species of *Trentepohlia* Mart. have been recorded from Malaysia i.e., *Trentepohlia aurea* (L.) Mart. by JOHNSON (1969) and *Trentepohlia jolithus* (L.) Wallroth by RATNASABAPATHY (1972). More recently, however, TAN (1976) had recognised a total of eight unidentified species of *Trentepohlia* in her studies on epiphyllous algae of Ulu Gombak, Selangor. Until now, the number of all congeneric species of this genus occurring in Malaysia is not known with certainty.

During the course of our investigations on Malaysian *Trentepohlia* we identified a specimen now registered as PM002 (PM for Pozi Milow, 002 as the collection number) as *Trentepohlia monilia* de Wildeman by comparing it with the descriptions of this species from Madras, India (JEEJI-BAI, 1962) and Java, Indonesia (DE WILDEMAN, 1900). The alga was found growing naturally on concrete slopes near the Department of Botany, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. It formed yellowish to dark green patches on the substratum.

Filaments have distinct prostrate and erect branching systems. Cells green in colour, ovoid and rarely spherical, 16.8–39.5 μm long and 6.3–16.8 μm wide. Cell walls smooth and less than 2 μm thick. Sporangia pedicellate, borne on terminal portion of erect branches, green to yellowish brown, spherical, 18.9–25.0 μm in diameter. Stalk cells yellowish green or hyaline, bottle-shaped, with occasionally bent neck, 37.8–44.1 μm long 8.4–14.7 μm wide. Descriptions are based on fresh specimen. All these are summarized in Figures 1(a-e) and 2.

The PM002 specimen possesses characteristics which are fully agreeable with descriptions of *Physolinum monilia* de Wildeman from Nilgiris, India made by PREMILA *et al.* (1990). The monotypic genus *Physolinum*, however, has been relegated to synonymy with *Trentepohlia* by FLINT (1959). *Trentepohlia monilia* de Wildeman is, therefore, the correct name for the specimen PM002 from the campus of the University of Malaya.

We would like to acknowledge Dr. Haji Mohamed for reading the manuscript and giving helpful comments, and the Malaysian Government Research and Development Grant R&D 1-07-04-037 for supporting this research.

REFERENCES

- DE WILDEMAN, E. 1990. *Le Algues la Flore de Buitenzorg (Essai d'une Flore Algologique de Java)*, Leide, pp. 69–70.
- FLINT, E.A. 1959. The occurrence of zoospores in *Physilonum* Printz. *New Phytol.*, 58: 267–270.
- JEEJI-BAI, N., 1962. *Trentepohlia monilia* de Wilderman from Madras. *Phykos*, Vol. 1(2): 79–83.
- JOHNSON, A. 1969. A forest quadrat in the National Park: The flora other than trees. *Malayan. Nat. J.*, 22: 152–158.
- PREMLA, N., R. NIRMALA and S. BHARATHAN, 1990. A preliminary report on the epiphytic and epiphyllous green algae from nilgiris. *Phykos*, 29 (1 & 2): 159–165.
- RATNASABAPATHY, M. 1972. Algae from Gunong Jerai (Kedah Peak), Malaysia. *Gardens Bulletin, Singapore*, XXVI: 95–110.
- TAN, D.H. 1976. *A Taxonomic and Distributional Study of the Epiphyllous Algae at the Ulu Gombak Field Studies Centre University Of Malaya*. B.Sc. Thesis. University of Malaya. pp. 35–34.

Aizhah Salleh
Pozi Milow
Department of Botany
University of Malaya
5900 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

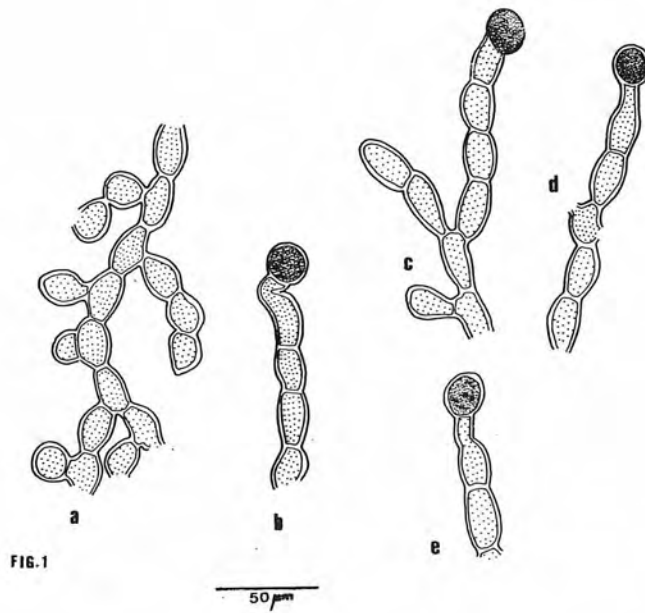


Figure 1. Different portions of the filaments of *Trentepohlia monilia* de Wildeman with b, c, d, e bearing pedicellate sporangia (drawn from fresh specimen).



Figure 2. A pedicellate sporangium (x) of *Trentepohlia monilia* de Wildeman i.e., borne on a stalk cell (y). Arrowed are oval-shaped vegetative cells of *T. monilia* de Wildeman. Scale = 20 μm (taken from fresh specimen).

