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 jolitius (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.

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REFERENCES


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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).