



## First Report of *Daldinia concentrica* on *Ficus benjamina* L. from India

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### ABSTRACT

The present paper deals with a new host record of *Daldinia concentrica* on *Ficus benjamina* L. from India.

**Key Words:** Ascomycetes, New host, *Daldinia concentrica*, *Ficus benjamina* L.

### INTRODUCTION

*Ficus benjamina* L. commonly known as the weeping fig, Benjamin's fig, or ficus tree, often sold in stores as just ficus, is a species of flowering plant belonging to family Moraceae. It is native to south and south East Asia and Australia. It is evergreen shrub or tree with drooping branches; alternate leaves and simple, long-tipped and glossy flowers. Fruits are enclosed in a fleshy sac turning from green to orange-red to red and then purplish black.

*Daldinia concentrica* (Boltan ex Fries) Cesati & de Not. is an important species of macro fungi belonging to Ascomycetes of family Xylariaceae. *Daldinia* species colonized abundantly on wood logs from various part of India. The stromata is hemispherical, up to 4 cm. across, at first reddish-brown, soon becoming black and somewhat shiny, perithecia small, crowded, in a single layer beneath the thin crust, asci about  $200 \times 12 \mu\text{m}$ , cylindrical, 8-spored, ascospores uniseriate,  $12-17 \times 6-9 \mu\text{m}$ , ellipsoid, light brown to dark brown, guttulate with a median longitudinal germ lit (Thind and Dargan 1978). The flora of Madhya Pradesh shows a great diversity in macro-fungi. Mycological survey undertaken during July-September 2011, the authors encountered a new host of *Daldinia concentrica*.



**Fig. 1.** *Daldinia concentrica* on *Ficus benjamina* L.

A review of literature indicated that *Daldinia concentrica* has been not reported on above host hence, they are new the new host record from India (Billgrami *et. al.* 1979; 1981; Jamaluddin *et. al.* 2004; Dargan and Thind 1984).

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**Fig. 2.** V.S. section of *Daldinia concentrica*



**Fig. 3.** Asci of *Daldinia concentrica*

The specimens collected from Botanical garden, Department of Biological Sciences campus Rani Durgavati University Jabalpur (M.P.) India, in the month of June – July 2011. The specimens have been deposited in the herbarium of Mycological



**Fig. 4.** Ascospores of *Daldinia concentrica*

Research Laboratory, Department of Biological Sciences, R.D. University, Jabalpur, India. On dead wood of *Ficus benjamina* L. Jabalpur, under the accession no: HDBJ# A.G.-1023. Leg. A.K. Gond.

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