

NOTES ON MYXOMYCETES III

A NEW SPECIES FROM SURINAME

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(*Doorwerth*)

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Physarum mennegae nov. spec. maxime ut *Ph. penetrale* Martin, sed sporangiis subglobosis, non distincte elongatis, stipite luteolo, non rubro, concretionibus calcareis albis, non luteis, capillitio minus denso et non persistente, sporis majoribus ab eo recedens; typus: 945 in collectione auctoris, lectus a Dr. A. M. W. Mennega in Guiana Batavorum Centrali.

Sporangia gregaria, stipitata, e hypothallo orbiculari parvo orientia, altitudine 1 mm non excedentia. Hypothallus decolor, translucens. Stipes sporangio fere aequilongus vel eo paulo longior, fragilis, pallide luteolus, translucens, lucem orientem versus visus luteus, interdum paulo in sporangii cavitatem productus. Sporangium subglobosum, circ. 0.5 mm diam., brunneum; peridium sine concretionibus calcareis, tenue, translucens, cum lucem orientem versus visum est decolor, irregulariter dehiscens; capillitium laxius, e filamentis gracilibus, hyalinis, in reticulum connectis compositum; filamenta nodis calcareis albis, nunc globosis, nunc ramificatis instructa. Sporae subglobosae, 7–8 μ diam., per saturam saturate brunneae, lucem orientem versus visae pallide violaceo-brunneae, minutissime verruculosae, verruculis per greges conjunctis. Plasmodium ignotum.

Habitat partem centralem Guianae Batavorum, ubi in foliis mortuis crescit.

Sporangia gregarious, stipitate, rising from a small circular hypothallus; height not exceeding 1 mm. Hypothallus colourless and transparent. Stipe about equal in length to the sporangium or slightly longer, brittle, pale yellowish, translucent and yellow by transmitted light, occasionally penetrating a little way into the sporangium. Sporangium subglobose, about 0.5 mm in diam., brown; peridium without lime concretions, thin, transparent, colourless by transmitted light; dehiscence irregular; capillitium not very dense, consisting of fine, hyaline, anastomosing threads with white, rounded or branched lime knots, not persistent. Spores in mass dark brown, by transmitted light pale violaceous brown, subglobose, 7–8 μ in diam., very minutely warted; the warts grouped in clusters. Plasmodium unknown.

Central Suriname: Upper part of the Tanjimama Creek (a tributary of the Coppename River), Dr. A. M. W. Mennega, Nov. 1955. "on dead leaves".

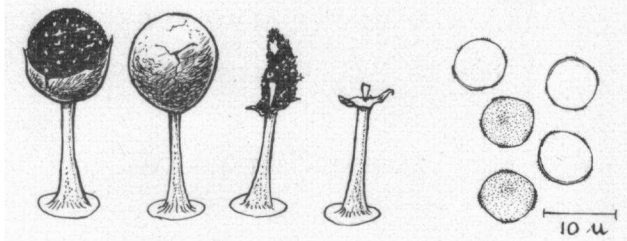


Fig. 1. *Physarum mennegae*. Sporangia and spores; three of the latter in optical section.

The type consists of over a hundred sporangia, some of which are mouldy. Part of the material was sent by me to Dr. Martin with the request to give me his opinion on the position of this specimen with regard to *Ph. penetrans*, which seemed to me to come closest to it. Dr. Martin kindly studied it, and wrote to me that he very much doubted its identity with this species, because in the latter the sporangia are noticeably taller than wide, instead of subglobose; to this difference I can add that the stipe is yellow and not red as in *Ph. penetrans*, that the capillitium is less dense and not persistent, that the lime knots are white instead of yellow, and that the spores are larger.