golden brown, 4-7 μm wide; spores oblong-ellipsoid, smooth, slightly thick walled, golden brown, nonamyloid, 5-6.5 × 3-4.2 μ m.

Habitat : On ground in coniferous forests.

Specimens examined : Meghalaya, Khasi hills, Raliang forest (6500 m), on ground, *JRS* 60108 (Holotype CAL, Isotype BAFC); Meghalaya, Khasi hills, Amarliang forest (6000 m), on ground, *JRS* 60115 (CAL).

This species is distinct by small reddish brown basidiocarps, shiny pilear surface with ciliate margin and smaller spores. *C. perennis* (Fr.) Murr. is morphologically somewhat similar in colour, pore size, habitat and faintly zoned pilear surface but has dull, larger basidiocarps and spores (6-9.5 × 3.5-4.5 μm). *C. cinnamomea* (Pers.) Murr. also has larger basidiocarps and spores (6-9.5 × 4.5-6.5 μ m). In addition, *C. cinnamomea* grows in deciduous forests. *C. montagnei* (Fr.) Murr. is, of course differentiated by azonate, larger pilei (up to 8 cm wide and 10 mm thick); pores (1-3 per mm) and spores (8-12.5 × 5.5-8 μ m).

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OIDIUM BONPLANDIANI—A NEW SPECIES OF POWDERY MILDEW FROM COIMBATORE, INDIA

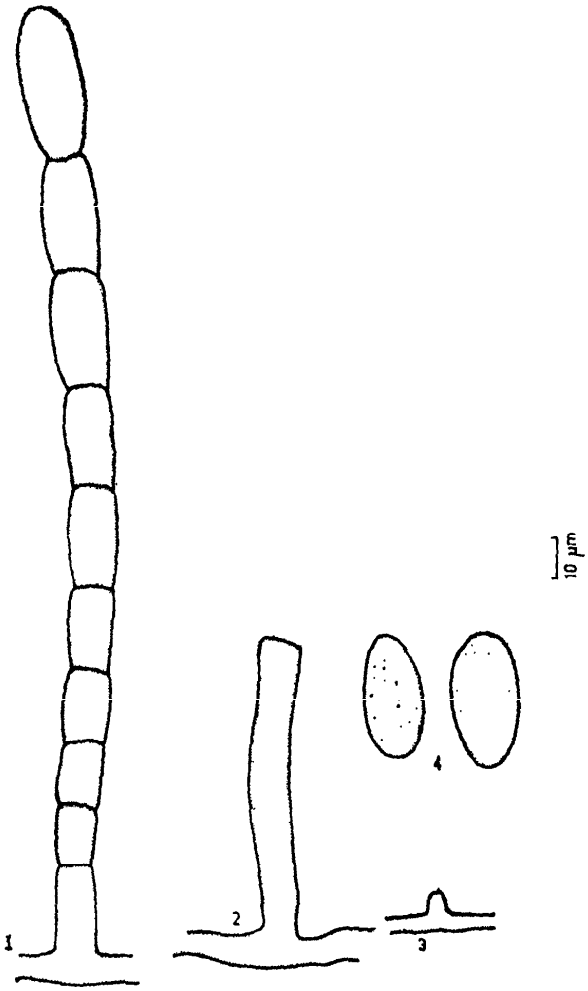
The Euphorbiaceae plant, *Croton bonplandianum* Baill., grows as a weed along the roads and in wastelands in and around Coimbatore. These plants are infected with a powdery mildew fungus. The infection is restricted to the lower surface of the leaves but a few infection spots are also observed on the upper surface of the leaves. The fungus persists in its conidial form. Ponnappa (1970) has described *Kokkalera crotonis* on this host from Bangalore, Karnataka. After the examination of the type material, Braun (1984) made the genus *Kokkalera* Ponnappa synonymous to *Sphaerotheca* Lev. because of the presence of conidia in chains and also the presence of appendages. Further, Braun (1987) states that the original description of the taxon is insufficient, misleading and the anamorph description in mystery. Since the present fungus is in its anamorph stage, it is necessary to propose a name. Hence, it is described here as a new species.

Oidium bonplandiani Hosagoudar, *sp. nov.*

Plagulae infectionis foliicolae, plerumque hypophyllae, albae, densae, ad 2 mm diam., plerumque confluentis. Hyphae mycelii effusae, albae, ramosae, septatae, 6-8 μ m latae. Appressoria mammilliformis. Conidiophorae erectae, simplices, 139-233 × 15-18.5 μm. Fundus pedis rectae, cylindraceae, 46-74.5 × 12-14 μ m. Conidia catenulatae (6-10), ovoideae vel ellipsoideae, 24-40.5 × 15-17 μ m.

Infection spots foliicolous, mostly hypophyllous, white, dense, up to 2 mm in diameter, mostly confluent. Hyphae effuse, white, branched, septate, 6-8 μ m in breadth. Appressoria mammilliform. Conidiophores erect, simple, 139-233 × 15-18.5 μ m (including conidia). Foot cells straight, cylindrical, 46-74.5 × 12-14 μ m. Conidia in chains of 6-10, ovoid to ellipsoid, 24-40.5 × 15-17 μ m.

Holotype : On leaves of *Croton bonplan-*



Oidium bonplandiani sp. nov.

Figs. 1-4 : 1. Conidiophores. 2. Foot cells. 3. Appressoria. 4. Conidia.

dianum Baill. (Euphorbiaceae) Coimbatore, October 24, 1988, *V. B. Hosagoudar* 82169, deposited in Madras Herbarium (MH), Coimbatore and the *Isotype* in HCIO, New Delhi.

Based on Braun's (1987) opinion the fungus was collected frequently and studied in its fresh condition.

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