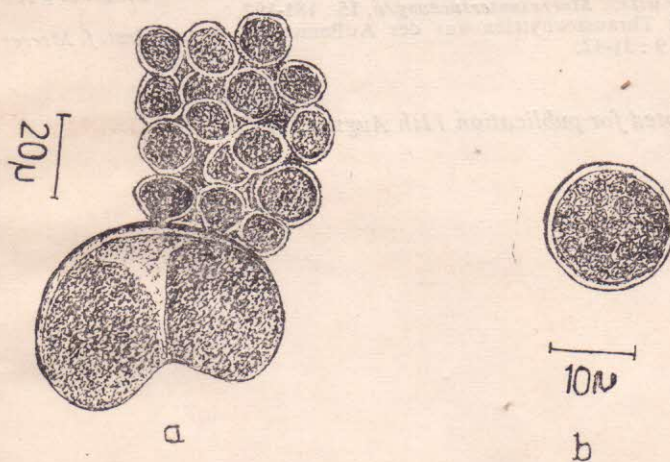


### *THRAUSTOCHYTRIUM AGGREGATUM*, A MARINE FUNGUS NEWLY RECORDED FROM INDIA

In the month of June and July, 1971, *Thraustochytrium aggregatum* Ulken was isolated from sea water and sediment samples from the mouth of the river Adyar near Madras city. The salinity at the site of collection was 21-24‰, temperature 30.5-31.5°C and pH 8.2-8.4. The following description of the fungus is based on the study of a single sporangium culture of the fungus in sea water pollen medium (Chakravarty, 1976; Gärtner, 1967).

The thallus is epibiotic or interbiotic, consisting of botryoid colonies of spherical sporangia, somewhat loosely attached to the pollen grain by the aggregation of rhizoids (Text-Fig. 1). The sporangia are 12-16 $\mu$  in diameter. The



*Thraustochytrium aggregatum*—(a) aggregated sporangia on pollen grain; and (b) single sporangium.

The membrane is smooth and thin. On maturity, the contents of the sporangia divide at first into somewhat polyhedral, then after about an hour into oval shaped segments. From each segment one zoospore is formed. The zoospores, after some convulsions swim orth individually. The sporangial wall disappears by dissolution or disintegration. The zoospores are laterally biflagellate. They swim for 30-75 minutes, spherical to elongate in shape and measure 3-3.5 $\mu$  in diameter. In slide culture, it takes about 60-75 hrs. for a zoospore to develop into a discharging sporangium.

From the above description, the fungus was identified as *Thraustochytrium aggregatum*, described by Ulken (1965). This marine fungus, belonging to aquatic phycomyces is a new record from India.

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Department of Plant Pathology, Faculty of Agriculture  
Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya  
Kalyani, Nadia  
West Bengal, India

D. K. CHAKRAVARTY

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