

RAMARIA AUREA, A NEW RECORD FROM PAKISTAN

ABDUL RAZAQ AND SALEEM SHAHZAD

*Pest and Disease Research Lab,
Department of Botany, University of Karachi, Karachi-75270, Pakistan.*

Abstract

Ramaria aurea (Schaeff. ex Fr.) Quél. (Gomphaceae, Basidiomycota) is reported for the first time from Gilgit Valley, Pakistan. This species is characterized by the production of sub-cylindrical spores that are 8-15x3-6 μm in size.

Species of *Ramaria* grow on the ground mainly in deciduous and in coniferous forests from late summer until autumn. During a survey of macrofungi of Gilgit Valley, specimens of *Ramaria* species were collected from Naltar Valley, District Gilgit, Pakistan and brought to the Pest & Disease Research Lab., Department of Botany, University of Karachi. After macro and microscopic examination, it was identified as *Ramaria aurea* after reference to Demoulin & Marriott (1981) and Surcek (1988). This appeared to be the first record of *Ramaria aurea* from Pakistan (Mirza & Qureshi, 1978; Ahmed, 1997).

Ramaria aurea produces ramified, up to 15cm tall and equally wide fruit bodies with branches growing upwards from a short, 2-5 cm thick fleshy stipe. The branches are short, densely compressed like a cauliflower, primrose yellow or yellow-ochraceous, conical, with tooth like tips (Fig. 1A). The flesh is soft, often with watery stains when young, white inside, yellowish under the surface, with a pleasant smell and taste. The spores are thick walled, yellowish, mostly minutely verrucose, echinulate or longitudinally striate and 8-15x3-6 μm , subcylindrical, pointed at the base (Fig. 1B). *Ramaria aurea* is an edible fungus that is distributed in cool area of Gilgit Valley, Pakistan.



Fig. 1. A. Fruiting body. B. Spores bar 10 μm .

References

- Ahmad, S., S.H. Iqbal and A.N. Kahlid. 1997. *Fungi of Pakistan*. Sultan Ahmed Mycological Society of Pakistan, Department of Botany, University of the Punjab, Quaid-e-Azam campus, Lahore 54590, Pakistan. 248pp.
- Demoulin, V. and J.V.R. Marriott. 1981. Key to the Gasteromycetes of Great Britain. *Bull. Brit. Mycol. Soc.*, 15(1): 37-43.
- Mirza, J.H. and M.A.R. Qureshi. 1978. *Fungi of Pakistan*. Department of Plant Pathology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan.
- Surcek, M. 1988. *The illustrated book of mushrooms and fungi*. Octopus Book, London. 311pp.

(Received for publication 1 February 2005)