

***COPRINUS CINEREUS* A NEW REPORT FROM GILGIT VALLEY, PAKISTAN**

ABDUL RAZAQ AND SALEEM SHAHZAD

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

Abstract

Coprinus cinereus is reported for the first time from Gilgit valley, Pakistan. This inedible species is characterized by the production of white fruiting body with black gills and ellipsoid spores 6-7x10-12 μ m in size.

The specimens were collected from Jalal abad, District Gilgit alt.2433m, N 35°28, E 74°46, and Dashkin, District Astore alt. 2707m, N 35°28, E 74°46 growing solitary or in groups on dung during summer-autumn 2005. After macro- and microscopic examination, it was identified as *Coprinus cinereus* after reference to Surcek (1988), Demoulin &Marriott (1981) and Buczacki (1989).

Distinguishing characters: Cap 5-15cm, at first egg- shaped or cylindrical, then flattened with upturned margins. Initially the cap is felty then becomes densely fibrous scaly, finally becoming smooth (Fig. 1A). Gills are at first white, then grayish buff, finally black, crowded and free. Spore print black. Smell indistinct. Flesh whitish when young. Spores ellipsoid, smooth, 6-7x10-12 μ m in size (Fig. 1B). It is an inedible fungus. This appears to be the first record of *Coprinus cinereus* from Pakistan (Mirza & Qureshi, 1978; Ahmad *et al.*, 1997). It is not utilized in the Gilgit valley but can be used for the preparation of ink (Buczacki 1989).

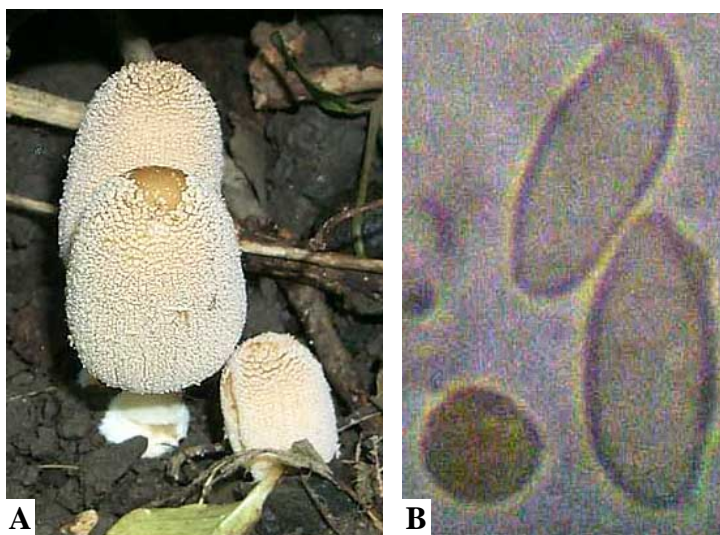


Fig. 1. *Coprinus cinereus*.

A. Fruiting body, B. Basidiospores.

References

- Ahmed, S., S.H. Iqbal and A.N. Kahlid. 1997. *Fungi of Pakistan*. Sultan Ahmad Mycological Society of Pakistan, Department of Botany, University of the Punjab, Quaid-e-Azam Campus, Lahore 54590, Pakistan, 248pp.
- 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. 311 pp.
- Demoulin, V. and J.V.R. Marriott. 1981. Key to the Gaestromycetes of Great Britain. *Bull. Mycol. Soc.*, 15(1): 37-43.
- Buczacki, S. 1989. *New Generation Guide to the Fungi of Britain and Europe*. Collins, London W1. 320 pp.

(Received for publication 15 February 2006)