
Two new *Meliola* species from China

Bin Song^{*}, Tai-Hui Li and Ya-Heng Shen

Guangdong Institute of Microbiology, Guangzhou 510070, Guangdong, China

Song, B., Li, T.H. and Shen, Y.H. (2003). Two new *Meliola* species from China. *Fungal Diversity* 12: 173-177.

Meliola fabri parasitic on *Castanopsis fabri*, and *Meliola hosagoudarii* parasitic on *Tutcheria microcarpa* are described and illustrated as new species.

Key words: *Meliola fabri*, *Meliola hosagoudarii*, *Meliolaceae*.

Introduction

Fungi in the genus *Meliola* (*Meliolaceae*), are obligate parasites on higher plants that are widely distributed in the tropical and subtropical regions. Although attempts have been made to culture these fungi, both in the laboratory and on host plants (Hansford, 1961; Thite and Patil, 1975; Goos, 1978), no one has yet succeeded in doing so. The genus *Meliola* is similar to the *Amazonia*, *Appendiculella*, *Asteridiella* and *Irenopsis*, but it differs from these genera of *Meliolaceae* in having hyphal setae on the mycelium and lacking vermiform appendages and setae on perithecial surface (Hansford, 1961). *Meliola* is the largest genus of the family *Meliolaceae*. Over 1000 species of *Meliola* have been described and over 230 species have been reported from China (Hu *et al.*, 1996, 1999; Kirk *et al.*, 2001; Song *et al.*, 2002).

Specimens of meliolaceous fungi deposited in the Herbarium of Guangdong Institute of Microbiology (HMIGD), Guangzhou (China) were examined. Two new species are determined, and therefore described and illustrated here.

Taxonomy

Meliola fabri B. Song, T.H. Li & Y.H. Shen, **sp. nov.** (Figs. 1-3)

Etymology: in reference to the host, *Castanopsis fabri*.

Coloniae caulicolae, atrae, densae, velutinae, dispersae, ad 3 mm diam., raro confluentes. *Hyphae* brunneae, rectae vel undulatae, opposite vel alternate acuteque ramosae,

* Corresponding author: B. Song; e-mail: lith@gis.sti.gd.cn

dense reticulatae, cellulae 12-20 × 5-7 µm. *Appressoria* opposita vel 10% alternata, interdum dense posita, antrorsa, recta vel subrecta, 11-20 µm longa; *cellulae basis* subcylindratae, 3-6 µm longae; *cellulae apicalis* ellipsoideae vel oblongae, integrae, 9-14 × 7-10 µm. *Phialides* illis capitatis immixtae, oppositae vel alternatae, ampullaceae, 15-28 × 7-9 µm. *Setae myceliales* dispersae vel aggregatae, numerosae, atrae, simplices, rectae vel leniter curvulae, apice acutae, ad 290 µm longae vel 8-12 µm crassae ad basim. *Perithecia* aggregata, nigra, globosa, verrucosa, ad 140 µm diam. *Ascospores* brunneae, ellipsoideae vel subfusoidae, utringue obtusae, 3-septatae, constrictae, 43-45 × 13-17 µm.

Colonies caulicolous, black, dense, velvety, scattered, up to 3 mm diam., rarely confluent. *Hyphae* brown, straight to undulate, opposite to alternate branching at acute angles, closely reticulate, cells 12-20 × 5-7 µm. *Appressoria* opposite, up to 10% alternate, often crowded, spreading, straight to nearly straight, 11-20 µm long; *stalk cells* nearly cylindrical, 3-6 µm long; head cells ellipsoid to oblong, entire, 9-14 × 7-10 µm. *Phialides* mixed with appressoria, opposite to alternate, ampulliform, 15-28 × 7-9 µm. *Mycelial setae* scattered to crowded, numerous, black, simple, straight to slightly curved, acute at the apex, up to 290 µm long, 8-12 µm broad at base. *Perithecia* crowded, black, globose, verrucose, up to 140 µm diam. *Ascospores* brown, ellipsoidal to nearly fusiform, obtuse, 3-septate, constricted at septa, 43-45 × 13-17 µm.

Material examined: CHINA, Wuyishan, Fujian Province, on leaves of *Castanopsis fabri* Hance (*Fagaceae*), September 1980, Z.X. Chen (HMIGD 30951, **holotype designated here**).

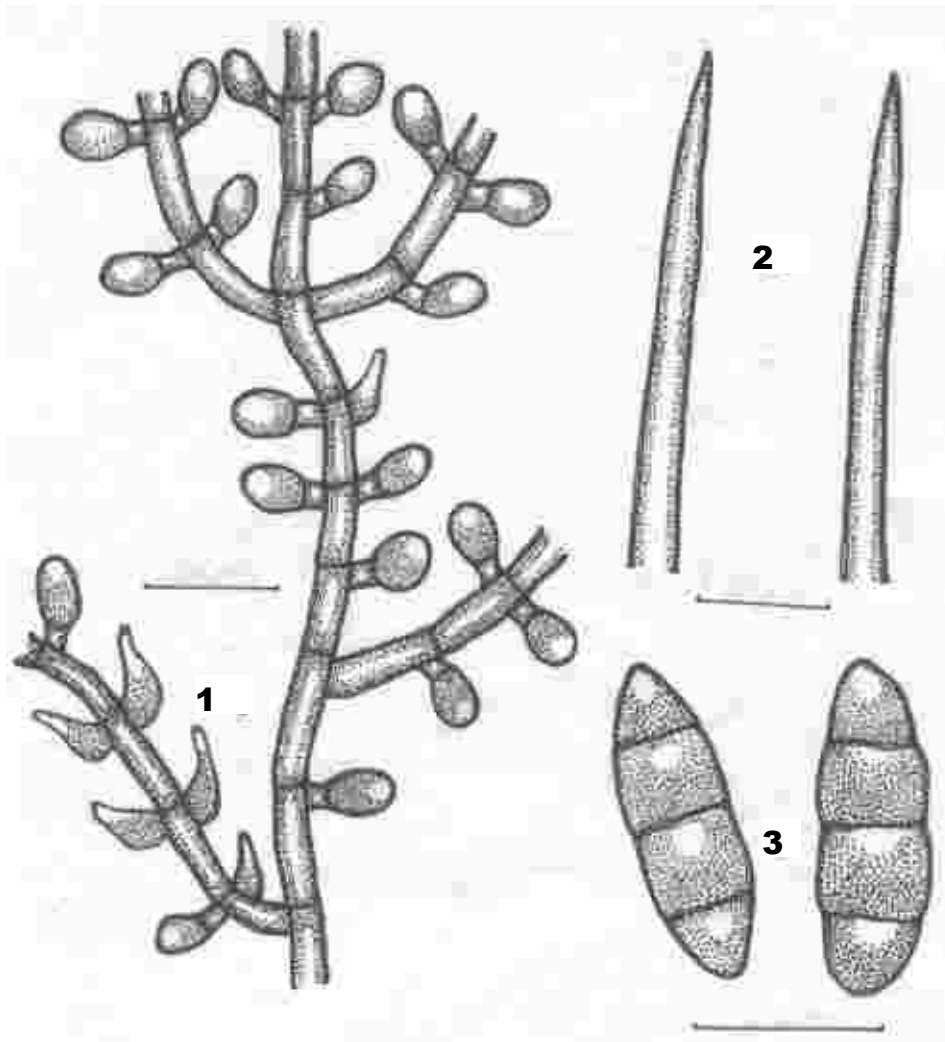
Notes: The present species differs from other species of *Meliola* known on the members of the *Fagaceae* in having 3-septate ascospores. It is similar to *Meliola hippocrateicola* Hansf. & Deight., but differs from this species in having 3-lobate appressoria, and having smaller and differently shaped ascospores (oblong, 34-41 × 11-14 µm in *M. hippocrateicola*).

***Meliola hosagoudarii* B. Song, sp. nov.** (Figs. 4-7)

Etymology: in honour of V.B. Hosagoudar for his contribution towards the study of Indian Meliolales.

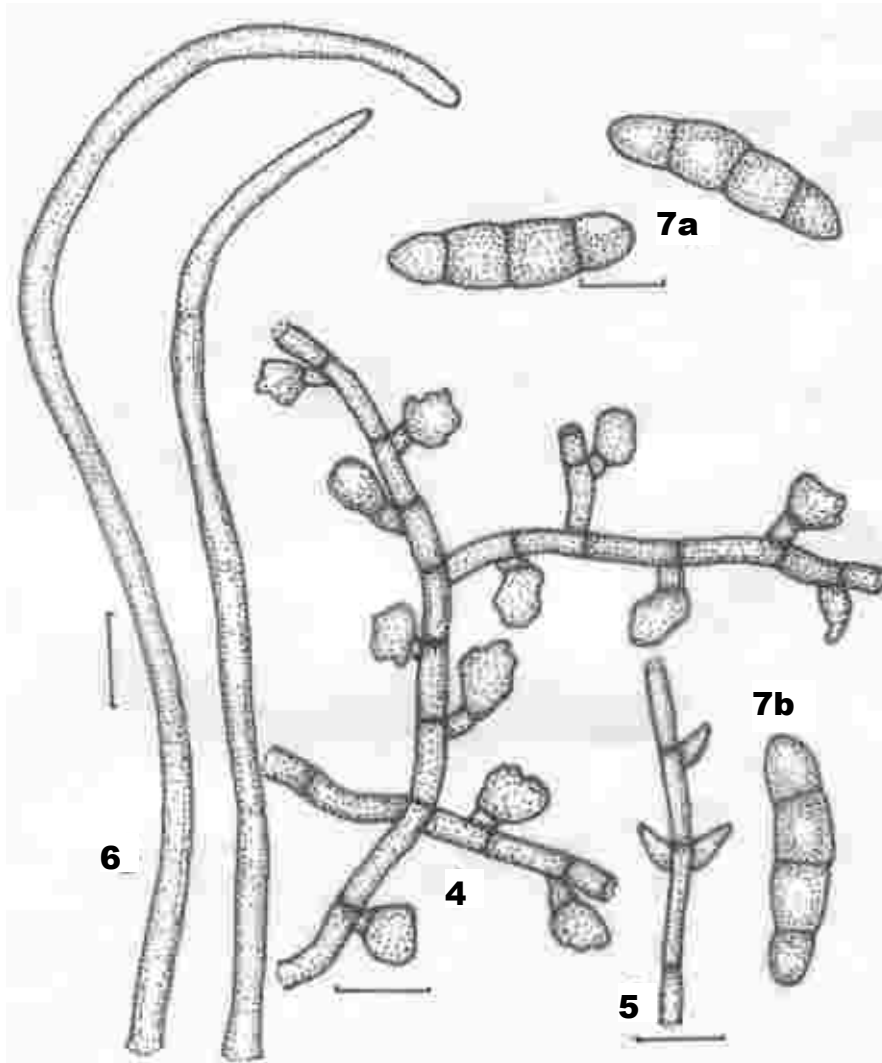
Coloniae amphigenae, atrae, densae, velutinae, dispersae, ad 5 mm diam., raro confluentes. *Hyphae* brunneae, rectae vel undulatae, opposite acuteque vel wideque ramosae, dense reticulatae, cellulae 20-40 × 6.5-8 µm. *Appressoria* alternata vel unilateralia, antrorsa, recta vel curvata, 20-37 µm longa; *cellulae basalis* cuneatae vel cylindratae, 5-12 µm longae; *cellulae apicalis* ovatae vel ellipsoideae, lobatae vel angulosae, 15-25 × 17-20 µm. *Phialides* illis appressoria immixtae, interdum separatae, alternatae vel oppositae, ampullaceae, 13-16 × 6-7 µm. *Setae myceliales* dispersae vel aggregatae, atrae, simplices, curvulae, subacutae ad apicem, ad 480 µm longae vel basis 7.5-9.5 µm latae ad basim. *Perithecia* aggregata, nigra, globosa, verrucosa, ad 160 µm diam. *Ascospores* brunneae, curvatae, cylindratae vel fusoidae, obtusae, 3-septatae, constrictae, 70-77 × 16.5-18.5 µm.

Colonies amphigenous, black, dense, velvety, scattered, up to 5 mm diam., rarely confluent. *Hyphae* brown, straight to undulate, branching opposite at an acute to wide angle, closely reticulate, cells 20-40 × 6.5-8 µm.



Figs. 1-3. *Meliola fabri*. 1. Hyphae with appressoria and phialides. 2. Mycelial setae. 3. Ascospores. Bars = 25 μm .

Appressoria alternate to unilateral, spreading, straight to curved, 20-37 μm long; stalk cells cuneate to cylindrical, 5-12 μm long; *head cells* ovate or elliptical, lobate or angulose, 15-25 \times 17-20 μm . *Phialides* mixed with appressoria, or sometimes separate, alternate to opposite, ampulliform, 13-16 \times 6-7 μm . *Mycelial setae* scattered or crowded, black, simple, curved, subacute at the apex, up to 480 μm long, 7.5-9.5 μm broad at the base. *Perithecia* aggregated, black, globose, verrucose, up to 160 μm diam. *Ascospores* brown, bent, cylindrical to fusiform, obtuse, 3-septate, constricted at the septa, 70-77 \times 16.5-18.5 μm .



Figs. 4-7. *Meliola hosagoudarii*. 4. Hyphae with appressoria and phialides. 5. Phialides. 6. Mycelial setae. 7a,b. Ascospores. Bars = 25 μ m.

Material examined: CHINA, Chebaling, Guangdong Province, on leaves of *Tutcheria microcarpa* Dunn (*Theaceae*), March 1993, B. Song & Y.S. Ouyang (HMIGD 34010, **holotype designated here**).

Notes: *Meliola hosagoudarii* differs from other *Meliola* species known on the members of *Theaceae* in having 3-septate ascospores. *Meliola litseicola* Hansf. is similar to this new species, but differs in forming straight, ellipsoid and shorter (50-55 \times 18-20 μ m) ascospores.

Acknowledgements

The project was supported by the Natural Science Foundation of Guangdong (A20000205; A020470) and Guangdong Key Laboratory of Microbial Culture Collection and Application. The authors are deeply grateful to V.B. Hosagoudar of Microbiology Division, Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Palode (India) for reviewing the manuscript, and especially acknowledge F.W. Xing of the South China Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica, Guangzhou, for identifying the host plants.

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(Received 30 June 2002; accepted 17 October 2002)