

## CATATRAMA (TRICHOLOMATACEAE), A GENUS NEW TO INDIA

K.B. VRINDA, C. K. PRADEEP, SIBI MATHEW & T.K. ABRAHAM

Tropical Botanic Garden & Research Institute, Palode, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 562, Kerala, India

*Catatrampa costaricensis*, previously known only from the type specimen, is described and illustrated based on collections from Kerala state, India.

Recently, whilst surveying the agaric flora of Kerala, an interesting fungus was collected in one of the sacred groves of Kerala. Macroscopically the fungus had the appearance of a species of *Lepiota*, but detailed studies revealed that it belonged to the genus *Catatrampa* (Tricholomataceae) described from Costa Rica (Franco-Molano, 1991). The collection is described and illustrated below. The description is based on fresh specimens collected by the authors. Colour terminology used is that of Methuen (Kornerup & Wanscher, 1967). Specimens are deposited at the Mycological Herbarium of the Microbiology Division, TBGRI (TBGT) and part at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K).

### *Catatrampa costaricensis* Franco-Molano, Fig. 1A–C

*Catatrampa costaricensis* Franco-Molano, Mycologia 83 (1991) 4.

Pileus 3–6.5 cm diam., convex to plane, broadly umbonate; surface 'light brown' (7D5), covered with 'reddish brown' (8E8) squamules throughout, appressed fibrillose towards the margin, recurved elsewhere, becoming washed off when exposed to rain; margin entire to incised, becoming uplifted with age, non-striate, appendiculate. Lamellae free, creamy white, up to 9 mm wide, close, with lamellulae of different lengths; edge concolorous with sides, entire. Stipe 4–7 cm × 4–8 mm, central, cylindric, solid with slightly dilated base, with white mycelial cords; surface 'light brown' (7D5), with 'reddish brown' (8E8), recurved squamules below, smooth above the annular zone. Annulus fragile, forming indistinct zone at superior part of stipe. Context white, soft, up to 4.5 mm wide at centre, thinning towards margin. Odour pleasant, flower-like.

Spores 5.3–7.5 × 6–7.5 μm, globose, echinulate, inamyloid, lacking germ-pore. Basidia 31.5–36 × 9–10 μm, clavate, 4-spored. Cystidia absent. Hymenophoral trama divergent from a central mediostratum, inamyloid, composed of thin-walled, hyaline hyphae, 7.5–22.5 μm diam. Subhymenium pseudoparenchymatous. Pileal trama composed of thin-walled, hyaline hyphae, 7.5–25.5 μm diam., occasionally with clamp-connections. Pileal cuticle a repent epicutis, disrupted by trichodermial tufts of scale cells. Stipitipellis similar to the pileal cuticle.

Scattered on soil among litter.

*Specimens examined.* INDIA: Kerala state, Iringole sacred grove: 23 Aug. 1997, Pradeep 4079; 3 July 1998, Sibi 4345.

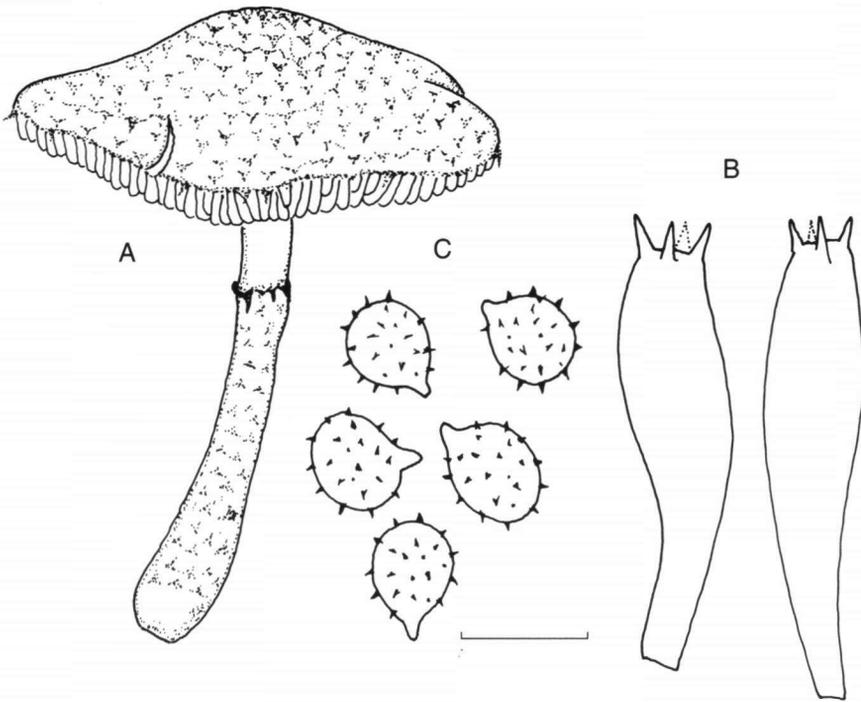


Fig. 1. *Catatrama costaricensis*. A. Habit  $\times 1$ ; B. basidia; C. spores. Bar = 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

The genus *Catatrama* was established to accommodate a single species, *C. costaricensis* Franco-Molano, an interesting white-spored agaric with a lepiotoid habit, collected on soil in *Quercus pilaris* Trel. forest in southern Costa Rica (Franco-Molano, 1991). The fungus has distinguishing characters: a combination of echinulate, cyanophilic, inamyloid basidiospores, subfree lamellae and bilateral hymenophoral trama. Comparison with the description of the type specimen reveals a good match of our material. Other than the original collection from Costa Rica, no further report of its occurrence has been published.

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