

RAMARIA AUREA, A NEW RECORD FROM PAKISTAN

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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 μ m 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 μ m, 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 μ m.

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