

LYCOPERDON MOLL, A NEW RECORD FROM PAKISTAN

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Abstract

Lycoperdon moll is characterized by the production of fruiting body with variable shape, 2-5 cm in size. Spores 4-5 μm in diameter, spherical, coarsely warty. *L. moll* is reported for the first time from Pakistan.

During a survey of District Gilgit, specimens of *Lycoperdon* were collected from a dense conifer forest in Naltar area (alt: 3039 m). The specimens were brought to the Pest & Disease Research Lab., Department of Botany, University of Karachi and after macro and microscopic examination were identified as *Lycoperdon moll* after reference to Demoulin & Marriot (1981) and Surcek (1988). It has a fruit body 2-5 cm, with variable shape, subspherical, tapering rather sharply below into stout, stem like base. Outer peridium variable, ochraceous brown, with soft spines that some occasionally fuse at tips, falling away to reveal smooth, creamy brown papery inner peridium, opening by small central apical pore (Fig. 1). Gleba at first white then brown, becoming dark brown and powdery with age. Sterile base spongy, large, capilitium brown unbranched, usually in or tufted groups *L. moll* inedible but it is locally used for treatment of burn and injury. Spore, brown, spherical, coarsely warty, usually 4-5 μm in diameter (Fig. 2). This appears to be the first record of *L. moll* from Pakistan not hitherto reported (Mirza & Qureshi, 1978; Ahmad *et al.*, 1979).



Fig. 1. Fruiting body (Bar = 3cm)

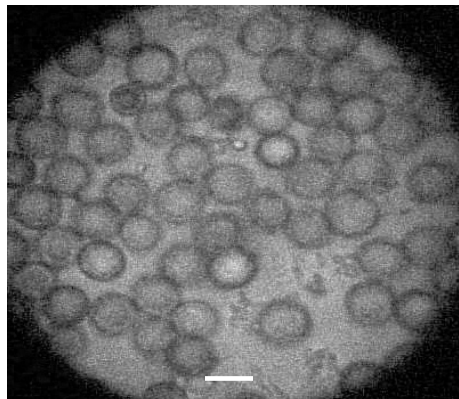


Fig. 1. Spores (Bar = 5 μm)

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