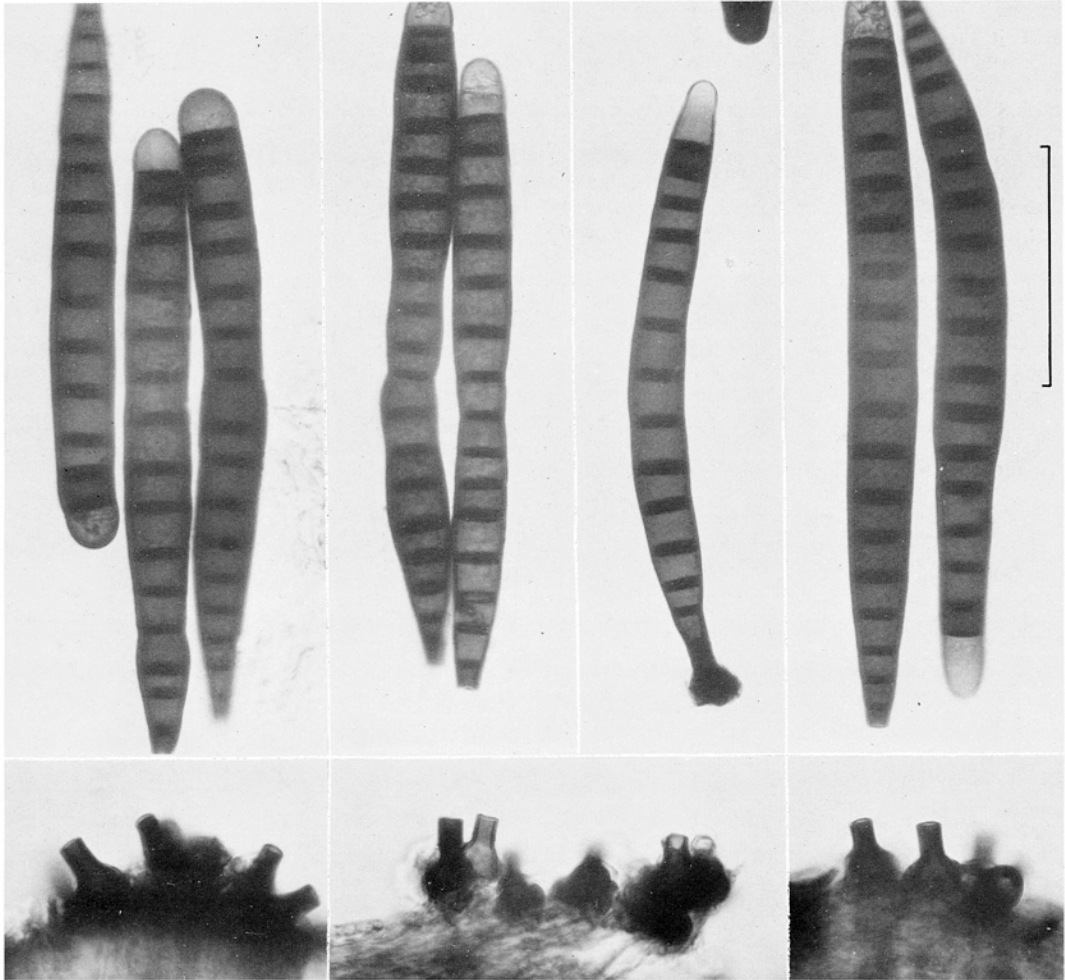


SPORIDESMIUM HORMISCIOIDES



Conidiophores and conidia from DAOM 134467. Scale = 50μ .

Sporidesmium hormiscioides Corda, Icon. Fung. 2: 6. 1838.

COLONIES effuse or sometimes punctate where conidia and conidiophores are clustered, glistening, brownish black, on wood of hardwood trees. MYCELIUM immersed, composed of light brown to greyish reddish orange, branched, septate hyphae $1.5-5\mu$ wide: where exposed at the surface of the substrate becoming contorted and coalescing to form small flat stromata of light to strong brown cells up to 6μ in diameter. CONIDIOPHORES arise solitarily from clusters of 3-4 surface cells, or more often in groups ranging from 2 or 3, through caespitose clusters of thirty or so, to extensive crowded mats of these, seated on a thin stroma. They consist of single, sessile conidiogenous cells (non-septate), obclavate to flask-shaped, very deep reddish brown often finally quite opaque, $14-16(-20)\mu$ long and $9-12\mu$ across the base, mostly abruptly narrowed to a short, almost cylindrical neck $4.2-5.5\mu$ wide which

bears a flat terminal conidium scar. No proliferations have been observed. CONIDIA develop singly and blastically. At maturity they are moderate to dark reddish brown, subcylindrical to cylindrical-fusoid, generally straight or curved, sometimes geniculately bent, with apex either broadly rounded or conspicuously tapered toward a narrow rounded tip (3.5μ wide), tapered below to an obconic-truncate cell (which is sometimes very dark) with a flat basal scar $4-5.5\mu$ wide. They are smooth (8-)12-18-septate. $90-205\mu \times 9-14.5\mu$, not constricted at the septa which appear as thick ($0.7-2\mu$), dark, almost black bands across the width of the conidia, the inner wall surrounding the lumina of the cells being barely visible, as is the central pore in septa. Conidium cells ($3.5-7-10(-14.5)\mu$ long, the terminal cell sometimes paler (? immature) and longer than the cells below.

SUBSTRATE: on decaying wood of *Alnus*, *Quercus* and unidentified hardwood.

DISTRIBUTION: Quebec, British Columbia.

COLLECTIONS: Que., Gatineau Park, VIII. 1952, DAOM 29314, X.1952, 29365, VI.1953, 37595, IX.1954, 44667, 44669, 44671, XI.1960, 134467 (S.J.H.). B.C., near Cowichan, Vancouver I., VIII.1957, 56401 (A.C. Molnar).

NOTES: The synonymy of this species, described originally from Czechoslovakia, was given by Hughes (Can. J. Bot. 36: 808, 1958), namely *Clasterosporium vermiculatum* Cooke, and *C. caespitosum* Ell. & Ev.: the first was described from England on *Quercus*, the latter from New Jersey, U.S.A. on *Acer*. Other specimens seen are on *Fagus* from Austria and Germany: the substrate of the type of *S. hormiscioides* has been identified as *Fagus*. Two other collections from unspecified localities in North America are on *Acer* and unidentified hardwood.

Individual collections from Canada and elsewhere may have a more or less restricted range of conidium morphology, i.e. some have produced predominantly long conidia (up to 400μ in one European collection!) with subulate, distal ends, whereas other collections have conidia mainly of the shorter kind and more cylindrical with a broad blunt apex.

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