



Conidiophores, young conidia and detached conidia from DAOM 144428. Scale =  $50\mu$

**Sporidesmium larvatum** Cooke & J.B. Ellis, Grevillea 6: 86. 1878.

COLONIES effuse, varying from sparse to dense, often punctate where conidiophores are aggregated, black, often showing a cast of dark reddish brown. MYCELIUM immersed, composed of subhyaline to light olive brown to brown, branched, septate hyphae,  $1.8-2.5\mu$  wide, the cells mostly  $5-12\mu$  long. CONIDIOPHORES solitary or crowded often in small clusters of up to 25 and radiating from small flattened or raised stromatic aggregations of cells; they are straight, dark brown (0-)1-3(-4)-septate,  $5-25\mu$  long, ampulliform to obclavate,  $7-9\mu$  wide at the base, tapering gradually or abruptly to a flat conidium scar  $3-4.5(-5)\mu$  wide. Occasionally the terminal conidiogenous cell has proliferated through the scar and another conidium is produced at a higher level: only one such proliferation has been seen on a conidiophore, and this is somewhat barrel-shaped and  $4.5-6.3\mu$  long. CONIDIA develop singly and blastically. At first they are obovoid, soon becoming septate and cylindric-obovoid. At maturity they are brown to dark brown, cylindrical to cylindric-oboid to narrowly ellipsoidal, straight or variously bent, with a rounded apex and narrowed below to an obconic-truncate or short cylindrical

base which is 3.5-5 $\mu$  wide at the scar. They are smooth, (7-)12-21-septate, (35-)60-110 $\mu$  long  $\times$  (9-)11-12(-15) $\mu$  wide, not constricted at the septa which appear as thin (ca 0.7 $\mu$ ) dark bands, with the lateral wall up to 1.5 $\mu$  thick. Conidium cells are 3.5 to 7 $\mu$  long, the terminal cell often somewhat longer (7-12 $\mu$ ).

**SUBSTRATE:** decaying wood and bark of *Abies balsamea*, *Pinus strobus*, *Thuja occidentalis* and of unidentified conifers.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba.

**COLLECTIONS** (selected): Que., Burnet, VIII.1952, DAOM 27431, 29395 (S.J.H.); Ste Cecile de Masham, X.1960, 71456 (G.L. Hennebert). Ont., near Portland, VIII.1961, 84330, 84335 (S.J.H.); Blakeney, VII.1952, 28643, 28650 (S.J.H.); 3 mi. NW of Bell's Corners, VI.1973, 144428 (S.J.H.); Old Stittsville, IV.1953, 35812 (S.J.H.). Man., 4 mi. W of Rennie, X.1967, 147006 (B.C. Sutton); Darwin, VIII.1968, 147007 (B.C.S.).

**NOTES:** Sutton (Mycol. Paper 132: 111-112. 1973) recorded numerous collections of this species from Manitoba on bark of *Abies balsamea* and on unidentified coniferous wood. Two of these collections are represented in DAOM. The synonyms of *S. larvatum* were listed by Hughes (Can. J. Bot. 36: 808. 1958) after an examination of type collections. Ellis (Mycol. Paper 70: 38. 1958) illustrated and described the species from the type of *S. larvatum* and from collections on *Taxus baccata* from England.

The fungus is common in Quebec and Ontario, and evidently Manitoba, and a number of these DAOM collections are on worked coniferous wood. In DAOM we have recent collections from U.S.A. (e.g. New York State, Michigan Hollow, IX.1952, 29408, S.J.H., and Colorado, Echo Lake, 8 mi. SW of Idaho Springs, VIII.1964, 106974, S.J.H.). The type collection of *S. larvatum* and those of the synonyms *Bactrodesmium opacum* Cooke & Harkn. ( $\equiv$  *S. harknessii* Sacc.) and *Exosporium scolecomorphum* Fairm. are from New Jersey, California, and New York State respectively. Another synonym, *Clasterosporium eruca* Sacc., Rouss. & Bomm., was described on *Ulmus* from Belgium, but one of us (W.I.I.) has identified wood fragments of the substratum in the preparation from the type as coniferous. It appears that without exception all the collections of this species that we have seen, including one from New Zealand, are on conifers.

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