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## NOTE

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## MACROFUNGUS *NITSCHKIA MACROSPORA* TENG (ASCOMYCETES: NITSCHKIACEAE), A NEW REPORT TO INDIA

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The study of wood inhabiting macrofungi was carried out during October 2017, in the central Western Ghats region of Shivamogga District, in Karnataka State. An interesting wood inhabiting macrofungus belonging to the family Nitschkiaceae was collected. A critical microscopic study revealed that it is a hitherto unrecorded species from India and hence the note (Bianchinotti 2004; Huhndorf et al. 2004; Mugambi & Huhndorf 2010).

Members of this family are saprophytic wood degraders with worldwide distribution (Mugambi & Huhndorf 2010). Nitschkiaceae members are generally characterized by turbinate ascomata and later transforms in to cupulate on maturity (Bianchinotti 2004). Ostiolar opening is indehiscent and thin walled, asci having variable number of spores, ascospores large, fusoid or cylindrical.

The field survey was conducted in Jambekoppa locality (14.10597222°N & 75.14305556°E) of Shimoga (Shivamogga) District forest regions. This deciduous forest is known for varied macrofungal biota. Sporocarp

were observed, photographs were taken in their natural habitat, field notes were taken along with their geographical ranges (Garmin-650) and samples were collected with substratum, brought to laboratory, anatomical characters were studied using a compound microscope. Classical taxonomy was followed for the characterization of species.

The name of the taxa was authenticated and confirmed by using <http://www.mycobank.org> and <http://www.indexfungorum.org/names/names.asp>.



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### *Nitschkia macrospora* Teng (Images 1–4)

Sporocarp 0.4x0.5 mm in size, black in colour, weakly attached to substratum, found in clusters, earlier rounded later turned into cuplet, without prominent ostiole with smooth surface. Asci clavate, 90–100 x 11–14 µm, with stalks up to 75µm long. Ascospores large, fusiform, septate, slightly curved, 35–45 x 6–7 µm.

Material examined: Accession number KUABMK-137, 12.x.2017, on unidentified wood log, Jambekoppa (14.10597222°N & 75.14305556°E), Shivamogga District, Karnataka State, India, coll. K.J. Nandan Patel & M. Krishnappa. Herbarium samples have been deposited in the departmental herbarium, department of Applied Botany, Kuvempu University, Shankaraghatta (Image 5).

*Nitschkia macrospora* was proposed by Teng (1934) from China. Vasilyeva et al. (2010) reported the species from Russia, and Pande (2008) studied the genus

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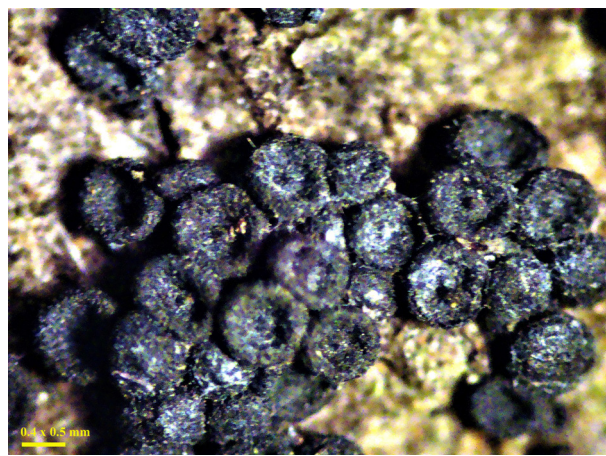
Image 1. *Nitschkia macrospora* in their natural habitat

Image 2. Ascomata enlarged



Image 3. Water mounted ascospores

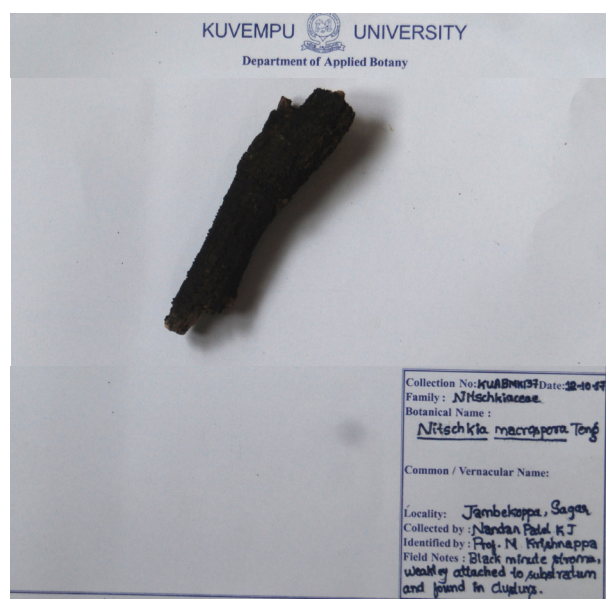


Image 4. Ascospores in Melzer's reagent

*Nitschkia* in India and this species forms an addition to the fungi of India.

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Image 5. Herbarium of *Nitschkia macrospora* (KUABMK-137)





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