A new Balladyna species from Kerala, India
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Abstract: A new species, Balladyna salaciae, infected the leaves of Salacia oblonga, collected from Silent Valley National Park of Palghat district in Kerala state has been described and illustrated in detail.

Keywords: Balladyna, new species, Salacia, Kerala, India

Introduction
During a survey of the foliicolous fungi in the Western Ghats region of Kerala state, a black mildew fungus was collected on the leaves of Salacia oblonga (Hippocrataceae) from the Silent Valley National Park of Palghat district in Kerala State. Microscopic examination of the fungus revealed the presence of unicellular appressoria, mycelial setae, globose ostiolate perithecia, having successively maturing asci with uniseptate brown ascospores. These are the characteristics of the genus Balladyna.

Taxonomy
Balladyna salaciae sp. nov. (Fig.1)
Colonies hypophyllae, dense, crustose, ad 4 mm diam., confluentes. Hyphae subrectae vel undulatae, irregulariter acuteque vel laxe ramosae, arte reticulatae et formans rete mycelialis, cells 19-36 x 6-7 µm. Appressoria numerosa, alternata vel unilateralis, unicellularis, antrorsa vel retrorsa, recta vel curvula, integra vel leniter angularis, clavata, recta vel variae curvula, 12-19 x 7-10 µm. Setae myceliales numerosae, dispersae, simplices, rectae, flexuose, acute vel obtusae at apicem, ad 140 µm longae. Perithecia dispersa, moderatim numerosa, stipitata ad initio, subsessilia ad maturitata, ovata, globose, ostiolata, 100-150 x 60-80 µm; asci pauci, globose vel ovati, paraphyses hyalinus asciis interspersae, 4-6 spori, bitunicati, 60 µm in diam., wall thick; ascospores conglobatae, oblongae, brown, uniseptatae, strongly constricted at the septum, 28-36 x 14-17 µm, wall smooth.

Materials examined: On the leaves of Salacia oblonga Wallich ex Wight & Arn. (Hippocrataceae), Silent Valley National Park, Palghat, Kerala, India, June 17, 2007 Jacob Thomas & al HCIO 48257 (type), TBGT 2996 (isotype).
The genus Balladyna belongs to the obligate biotrophs of the group ‘Black mildews’ and their host range is restricted to the members of the corresponding host family. This genus represents 15 species infected the members of the family Rubiaceae, Annonaceae, Strychnaceae and Verbenaceae (Hosagoudar, 2004). Since there is no report of the genus Balladyna on the members of the family Hippocrataceae, it is described here as a new species.

References