



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Pyrenocarpous lichens in Goa with five new records to India

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ABSTRACT

The pyrenocarpous lichens are the one which produces perithecial ascocarps. They are one of the prominent groups of lichens in tropical forests. Frequent incidence of pyrenocarpous taxa in lichen biota of Goa prompted us to take up the exclusive study of this group in the State. The study revealed the occurrence of 79 species belonging to 15 genera and seven families. The family Pyrenulaceae had the maximum number of 23 species, while 20 belonged to the family Porinaceae. In comparison to North Goa, South Goa is fairly well explored for lichens representing 71 species from 11 localities. The following five species are reported as new to India — *Porina exserta*, *P. siamensis*, *Pyrenula dissimulans*, *P. pyrenastrospora* and *P. rinodinospora*. With the addition of five new records, the Goa State now represents 165 species of lichens, out of which 48% is represented by pyrenocarpous lichens. The present study will be useful for monographic studies on pyrenocarpous lichens and for environmental monitoring studies in the area, as this can be considered as a key indicator species.

Introduction

The Western Ghats traverses through the State of Goa, India and is a well-known biodiversity hotspot. Extensive lichen exploration in the State has been initiated recently, and so far, 160 species are reported (1-6). Frequent occurrence of pyrenocarpous lichens during the exploration in the State indicated their dominance which prompted us to carry out an exclusive study on this group. Pyrenocarpous are a group of lichens having perithecia as their ascocarps. Pyrenocarpous taxa commonly grow on the bark of trees, sometimes on rocks, soil or leaves, mostly in moist tropical regions of the world (7).

In the past, pyrenocarpous lichens collected from Goa were included in various monographic works (8-14) and few new species such as *Anthracotheicum goaense* A. Singh [current name *Pyrenula gibberulosa* (Vain.) Aptroot] and *P. subacutalis* Upreti [current name *Pyrenula maravalensis* Vain.] were also described. The recent floristic studies in the State reported 14 pyrenocarpous taxa from the Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary (15) and 13 taxa from Bondla and Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuaries (16). A list of lichens from the Goa State reveals 118 species under 42 genera and 23 families, of which 44 were pyrenocarpous lichens (1). Further, in an exclusive

survey of Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary 36 pyrenocarpous taxa were reported under nine genera (3). In the studies on foliicolous lichens, there enumerated a total of 15 pyrenocarpous lichens (2, 4). These reports clearly indicate that Goa State has a rich diversity of pyrenocarpous lichens. Therefore, carrying out an exclusive study on pyrenocarpous lichens of the State was inevitable. The ultimate aim of the study was to produce a checklist and identification key for pyrenocarpous lichens of Goa State by compilation of previous reports and by more exploration in the State.

Materials and Methods

The present study is based on published literature, previously collected specimens deposited in the herbarium LWG of CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow and freshly collected specimens from Goa. About 350 specimens from 19 localities of Goa (Fig. 1) were available for the study. Morphological and anatomical characters were examined using stereo zoom Leica S8APO and light DM2500 microscopes attached to a camera. Thin sections of perithecia were cut using a razor blade under a stereo zoom microscope. All anatomical measurements were recorded in plain water, while



Fig. 1. Map of Goa showing North and South districts and localities surveyed for present study.

10% KOH was used for the detailed study of asci and ascospores. For spot tests, the usual reagents of K, C and P were used. To identify lichens substance, thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed in solvent system C following the standard method (17). Fresh specimens were preserved in the herbarium of Goa University (GU), and a set of voucher specimens were deposited in herbarium LWG. The specimens were identified up to species level with the help of keys of earlier published literature (18-25). The classification of lichens summarized in reference 26 was followed for arranging species under their respective families. The identity of species was confirmed by matching with type specimens or well-identified specimens available at LWG.

Results

The study revealed the occurrence of 79 species of pyrenocarpous lichens belonging to 15 genera and seven families in Goa. Five species were recorded for the first time from the country (Table 1). The brief descriptions for the five newly recorded lichens and key for all the pyrenocarpous lichens encountered in Goa are provided. The Pyrenulaceae family was most dominant in the State, with 23 species followed by

Porinaceae (20 spp.) and Monoblastiaceae (13 spp.). Among the genera, *Pyrenula* was dominant with 24 species, followed by *Porina* (19 spp.), *Anisomeridium* (12 spp.) and *Strigula* (8 spp.). All the species recorded were crustose except for *Endocarpon subrosetum* A. Singh & Upreti, which was squamulose. A total of 58 species were found to grow on tree trunks, branches and twigs (corticolous), followed by 16 species that grow on leaves (foliicolous), while five species grow on rocks (saxicolous). *Astrothelium meristosporum* (Mont. & Bosch) Aptroot & Lücking and *A. scoria* (Fée) Aptroot & Lücking exhibited their substrate specificity with restricted occurrence on cashew nut (*Anacardium occidentale* Linn.) trees. The species of *Porina* and *Pyrenula* exhibit maximum substrate diversity as they were found growing on various trees, leaves and rocks, while all *Strigula* species exhibit luxuriant growth only on leaves. *Artocarpus integrifolius* L.f., *Anacardium occidentale* L., *Cocos nucifera* L. and *Terminalia elliptica* Willd. were the common phorophytes for the growth of pyrenocarpous lichens. *Porina interestes* (Nyl.) Harm., *P. tetracerae* (Afz.) Müll. Arg., *Pyrenula aspistea* (Ach.) Ach., *P. oculata* A. Singh & Upreti and *Trypethelium eluteriae* Spreng. were the most common species of the State.

56	<i>P. ochraceoflava</i> (Nyl.) R. C. Harris	CR	C	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
57	<i>P. oculata</i> A. Singh & Upreti	CR	C	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	
58	<i>P. quassiaecola</i> (Fée) Fée	CR	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
59	<i>P. pyrenastrospora</i> Aptroot*	CR	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	
60	<i>P. rinodinospora</i> Aptroot *	CR	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	
61	<i>P. subumbilicata</i> (C. Knight) Aptroot	CR	C	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Strigulaceae																					
62	<i>Strigula antillarum</i> (Fée) Müll. Arg.	CR	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	
63	<i>S. concreta</i> (Fée) R. Sant.	CR	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	
64	<i>S. janeirensis</i> (Müll. Arg.) Lücking	CR	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	
65	<i>S. nitidula</i> Mont.	CR	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	
66	<i>S. phyllogena</i> (Müll. Arg.) R.C. Harris	CR	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	
67	<i>S. smaragdula</i> Fr.	CR	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	
68	<i>S. subelegans</i> Vain.	CR	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	
69*	<i>S. subtilissima</i> (Fée) Müll. Arg.	CR	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	
Trypetheliaceae																					
70	<i>Astrothelium luridum</i> (Zahlbr.) Aptroot & Lücking	CR	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	
71	<i>A. meristosporum</i> (Mont. & Bosch) Aptroot & Lücking	CR	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	
72	<i>A. scoria</i> (Fée) Aptroot & Lücking	CR	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	
73	<i>Marcelaria benguelensis</i> (Müll. Arg.) Aptroot, Nelsen & Parnmen	CR	C	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	
74	<i>Nigrovothelium bullatum</i> Lücking, Upreti & Lumbsch	CR	C	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
75	<i>N. tropicum</i> (Ach.) Lücking, M.P. Nelsen & Aptroot	CR	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	
76	<i>Trypethelium eluteriae</i> Spreng.	CR	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	
77	<i>T. plicatorimosum</i> Mahija & Patw.	CR	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	
Verrucariaceae																					
78	<i>Endocarpon subrosetum</i> A. Singh & Upreti	SQ	S	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
79	<i>Staurothele fissa</i> (Taylor) Zwackh	CR	S	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

The studied specimens belonged to nineteen localities; eleven were from North Goa, while eight localities were from South Goa. The maximum diversity of pyrenocarpous lichens is recorded in South Goa with 71 species, while North Goa recorded 29 species and 21 species are common between the two districts. It may be noted that South Goa has a more dense forest area which is also fairly well explored compared to North Goa. Among the different localities, Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) is the most extensively surveyed and has maximum diversity of pyrenocarpous lichens with 48 species, while Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary (BMWS) has 17 and Valpoi has eight species. Ponda and Quinamol localities are poorly represented by pyrenocarpous lichens with one species each. Compared to other sites Ponda and Quinamol are anthropogenically more disturbed which may be the reason for low pyrenocarpous lichen diversity here.

New records

1. *Porina exserta* Müll. Arg. in Flora 71: 548. 1888.

Thallus corticolous, continuous to rimose, pale brownish to green, smooth to minutely rugulose, 35–80 µm thick, ecorticate; prothallus lacking. Perithecial verrucae, hemispherical to subglobose, 0.35–0.96 mm diam., brownish to blackish, apex rounded; ostiole usually inconspicuous; excipulum 20–30 µm thick, pale orange-brown, centrum 0.2–0.4 mm wide; subhymenium 15–35 µm thick; paraphyses unbranched, 0.7–1.2 µm wide, periphyses absent. Asci elongate to cylindrical 110–1160 × 14–18 µm, ascospores elongate to cylindrical, (11–)15–17 (–21) septate, 44–70 × 3.5–5.5 µm. Pycnidia absent. (Fig. 2A).

Chemistry:—Thallus K–, C–, KC–, PD–, UV–; no lichen substance present in TLC.

Distribution and ecology:—This species is found growing on the bark of *Terminalia paniculata* Roth in Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary between altitude of 100–200 m. Earlier, this species was reported from Thailand, Christmas Island, the Northern Territory, eastern Queensland, Taiwan and Tahiti (27).

Specimen examined:—INDIA, Goa: South Goa, Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, Endrem, N14°59'51.2", E 074°11'52.1", 24 February 2018, *P. Randive GU-L 813* (LWG Acc. no. 36250!), on the bark.

Note:—*Porina exserta* closely resembles *P. bellendenica* Müll. Arg. in having similar perithecial verrucae and ascospores, but *P. bellendenica* differs in having a black basal layer and 15 septate ascospores.

2. *Porina siamensis* P. M. McCarthy in Lichenologist 31(3): 242. 1999.

Thallus saxicolous, rimose to areolate, smooth, matt, pale greyish to green, 20–80 µm thick, ecorticate; prothallus present, grey to black. Perithecia numerous, mostly solitary, semi-immersed to ± superficial, convex to hemispherical or subconical, 0.2–0.6 mm diam., greenish-brown to black, not overgrown by the thallus; ostiole inconspicuous or in a shallow depression; centrum subglobose to ovate, 0.10–0.25 mm diam.; excipulum hyaline to pale brown or yellowish-brown, 10–15 µm thick, subhymenium 20–40 µm thick; paraphyses unbranched, 0.8–1 µm wide, periphyses absent. Asci cylindrical to elongate, 72–86 × 8–9 µm, ascospores 3-septate, cylindrical to fusiform, 14–24 × 3–4.5 µm, lacking perispore. Pycnidia present. (Fig. 2B).

Chemistry:—Thallus K–, C–, KC–, PD–, UV–; no lichen substance present in TLC.

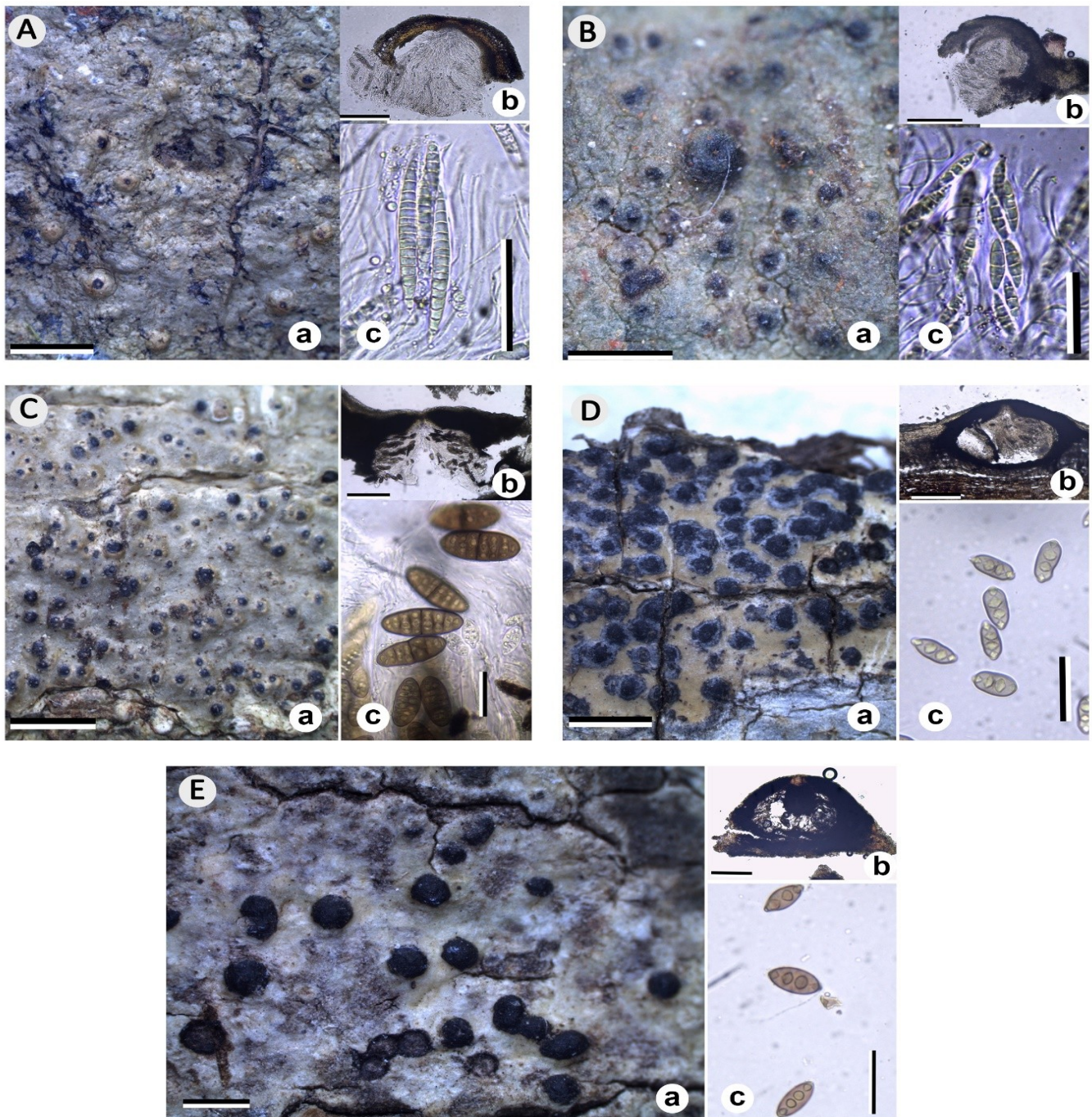


Fig. 2. Habit (a), perithecial section (b) and ascospores (c) of newly recorded pyrenocarpous lichens. A. *Porina exserta*, B. *P. siamensis*, C. *Pyrenula dissimulans*. D. *P. pyrenastrospora*. E. *P. rinodinospora* (Scale bars: habit A, C-E 2 mm, B 5 mm; perithecial section A-E 200 μ m; ascospores A. 50 μ m, B - E 30 μ m).

Distribution and ecology:—*Porina siamensis* was found growing on an open, exposed rock in Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary at about ± 200 m. Previously this species was known from Thailand (28).

Specimen examined:—INDIA, Goa: South Goa, Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, Cuncolim, Agonda, N15°13'13.0", E073°97'99.5", 28 December 2016, *P. Randive GU-L434* (LWG Acc. no. 36251!), on rock.

Note:—This species is similar to *Porina chlorotica* (Ach.) Müll. Arg. and *P. fortunata* P. M. McCarthy & Etayo in having black or dark reddish-brown perithecia. *P. chlorotica* also has three septate ascospores, but its perithecia are smaller (0.2–0.3 mm

diam.) and ascospores are slightly larger (16–32 \times 4–6 μ m). In comparison, *P. fortunata* differs in having seven septate ascospores of size 18–33 \times 5–4 μ m and perithecia of 0.3–0.4 mm diam.

3. *Pyrenula dissimulans* (Müll. Arg.) R.C. Harris in More Florida lichens, Incl. 10 Cent Tour Pyrenol.: 110. 1995.

Thallus corticolous, corticated, smooth, continuous, brownish to yellowish, lacking pseudocyphellae. Perithecia simple, dispersed, conical, emergent, 0.25–0.6 mm diam., black; ostioles apical black; hamathecium hyaline. Asci cylindrical to clavate, 4–8 spored, ascospores muriform, 25–55 \times 14–22 μ m,

lumina mostly rounded, at least in the central part of ascospores. Pycnidia not seen. (Fig. 2C).

Chemistry:—Thallus K–, C–, KC–, PD–, UV–; no lichen substance present in TLC.

Distribution and ecology:—This species was found growing on the tree bark of *T. paniculata* in the Goa University campus approximately at an altitude of 100 m. Earlier, this species was known from North and South America (29–31).

Specimens examined:—INDIA, Goa: North Goa, Goa University campus, 02 October 2016, *P. Randive*, GU-L305 (LWG Acc. no. 36252!) on bark, GU-L318 (LWG Acc. no. 36253!) on bark.

Note:—*Pyrenula dissimulans* is close to *P. oleosa* R.C. Harris in having corticated thallus, apical ostioles and lacking oil inspersion in hamathecium, but the old ascospores in the latter species are filled with oil.

4. *Pyrenula pyrenastrospora* Aptroot in *Bibliotheca Lichenol.* 64: 165, 1997.

Thallus corticolous, corticated, smooth, brownish, lacking pseudocyphellae. Perithecia mostly aggregated with fused walls, conical, 0.3–0.6 mm diam.; ostioles apical or when ecentric all opening the same direction, black; hamathecium not inspersioned. Asci cylindrical to clavate, 4–8 spored, ascospores brown, 3-septate, fusiform, 16–25 × 6–10 µm, lumina in a straight line, terminal lumina directly against the exospores wall. Pycnidia absent. (Fig. 2D).

Chemistry:—Thallus K–, C–, KC–, PD–, UV–; no lichen substance present in TLC.

Distribution and ecology:—This species was found growing on the tree bark of *Tectona grandis* L.f. in Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary at altitude ±200 m. Previously this species was known from Papua New Guinea (19).

Specimen examined:—INDIA, Goa: South Goa, Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, Bela lake, N14°57'23.7", E074°09'09.3", 15 January 2018, *P. Randive* GU-L655 (LWG Acc. no.36254!), on bark.

Note:—*Pyrenula pyrenastrospora* is closely related *P. minarum* Vain., which differs in having inspersioned hamathecium and partly eccentric ostioles.

5. *Pyrenula rinodinospora* Aptroot in *Lichenologist* 44(5): 611–618. 2012.

Thallus corticolous, corticate, smooth, continuous, thin, brownish, without pseudocyphellae. Perithecia simple, dispersed, conical, emergent, 0.3–0.5 mm diam., black, edges without thallus covering; ostioles black, apical; hamathecium hyaline, densely inspersioned with oil droplets. Asci cylindrical to clavate, 8-spored, ascospores brown, 3-septate, fusiform, without constrictions, 20–30 × 11–12.5 µm, ends mostly pointed, lumina mostly quadrangular, angles blunt, terminal lumina elongated and not separated from the end wall by an endospore layer. Pycnidia not seen. (Fig. 2E).

Chemistry:—Thallus K–, C–, KC–, PD–, UV–; no lichen substance present in TLC.

Distribution and ecology:—This species was found growing on the bark of *Ficus benghalensis* L. in Coatigao Wildlife Sanctuary and en route to Sattari-Valpoi between altitude 100–200 m. Previously this species was known only from Papua New Guinea (32).

Specimens examined:—INDIA, Goa: South Goa, Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, Quinomol, N15°13'130", E074°11'88.7", 07 December 2016, *P. Randive* GU-L414 (LWG Acc. no. 36255!) on bark; North Goa, Sattari-Valpoi, N15°31'66.7" E074°12'41.1", 07 March 2017, *P. Randive* GU-L 548 (LWG Acc. no. 36256!), on bark.

Note:—*Pyrenula rinodinospora* closely resembles *Pyrenula maravalensis* Vain. in having similar morphology, but the latter species differs by the shorter ascospores of 20–25 µm long (18).

Key to the pyrenocarpous lichens of Goa

- 1a. Thallus foliicolous 2
- 1b. Thallus otherwise 17
- 2a. Asci functionally unitunicate, entirely thin-walled, perithecia covered by thallus, ascospores transversely 3–9 septate..... 3
- 2b. Asci functionally bitunicate (fissitunicate), apically thick-walled, perithecia not covered by thallus, ascospores transversely 1-septate..... 10
- 3a. Perithecia with 5–10 (–12) setae, soft, usually decurved, narrowly acute or bristle-like, whitish or black with white distal halves, ascospores fusiform to narrowly oblong, 7 septate, 25–35 × 4–6 µm ***Trichothelium alboatrum***
- 3b. Perithecia lacking setae 4
- 4a. Area around the ostiole or perithecial surface rough, slightly papillose or tomentose 5
- 4b. Area around the ostiole and perithecial surface glabrous 6
- 5a. Perithecial wall colourless, ascospores 5 septate, fusiform, 22–30 × 4–5 µm ... ***Porina pallescens***
- 5b. Perithecial wall upper part blackish, lower part brownish, ascospores 5 septate, fusiform, 20–32 × 4–5.5 µm ***Porina nitidula***
- 6a. Ascospores 3 septate 7
- 6b. Ascospores 7–9 septate 8
- 7a. Perithecial apex conical, translucent, ascospores 18–27 × 3–5 µm ***Porina rufula***
- 7b. Perithecia apex rounded, not translucent, ascospores oblong, 14–20 × 2–4 µm ***Porina chrysophora***
- 8a. Perithecia conical, apex with prominent, short cylindrical extension, ascospores narrowly fusiform to oblong, 34–48 × 7 × 4–6 µm ***Porina conica***
- 8b. Perithecia apex without any extension 9
- 9a. Perithecia conical to wart-shaped when mature, with black dot around ostiole, ascospores narrowly fusiform, 33–63 × 4–6 µm, white prothallus sometimes present ***Porina karnatakensis***

- 9b. Perithecia lens shaped to hemispherical, without dark spot, prothallus absent, ascospores oblong, $26-33 \times 3-4 \mu\text{m}$ ***Porina epiphylla***
- 10a. Ascospores large, $35-70 \times 4-8 \mu\text{m}$, often breaking into halves (each cell often with up to 3 secondary septa), oblong, with distinct constriction at septum ***Strigula janeirensis***
- 10b. Ascospores small, up to $25 \mu\text{m}$ long 11
- 11a. Distal cell of the ascospore enlarged..... 12
- 11b. Distal cell not enlarged 13
- 12a. Thallus subcuticular, bright green, ascospores irregularly biserial, $15-25 \times 4-6 \mu\text{m}$ ***Strigula antillarum***
- 12b. Thallus epiphyllous, pale greenish to bluish grey, ascospores biserial, $15-25 \times 4-6 \mu\text{m}$ ***Strigula subelegans***
- 13a. Ascospores breaking into halves either inside or outside the asci 14
- 13b. Ascospores not breaking 15
- 14a. Thallus thin ($8-15 \mu\text{m}$), bright metallic green, margin effuse, with a thin blackish line, ascospores $8-12 \times 2-3 \mu\text{m}$ ***Strigula nitidula***
- 14b. Thallus thick ($15-30 \mu\text{m}$), pale greyish green, margin crenulate to lobulate, lacking blackish line, ascospores $8-12 \times 2-3 \mu\text{m}$ ***Strigula concreta***
- 15a. Thallus elobate, photobiont cells rectangular to angular-rounded, perithecia pure black, conical, delimited from surrounding thallus, ascospores $9-12 \times 2-3 \mu\text{m}$ ***Strigula phyllogena***
- 15b. Thallus crenulate lobate to distinctly lobate . 16
- 16a. Thallus with distinct lobes leaving small to large interspaces, greenish-brown, perithecia completely exposed but covered by thin thallus layer, ascospores oblong aciculate, with a slight constriction at septum, $10-18 \times 2-3 \mu\text{m}$ ***Strigula subtilissima***
- 16b. Thallus entire to crenulate or lobulate, sometimes whole thallus lobate-laciniate, bright green, perithecia immersed to erumpent, covered by algiferous thallus tissue up to ostiolum, ascospores $14-24 \times 4-6 \mu\text{m}$ ***Strigula smaragdula***
- 17a. Thallus saxicolous 18
- 17b. Thallus corticolous 22
- 18a. Thallus squamulose, squamules imbricate, up to 2.5 mm wide, perithecia 1-6 per squamule, ascospores 2 per asci, brown, muriform, $30-40 \times 12-14 \mu\text{m}$ ***Endocarpon subrosettum***
- 18b. Thallus crustose, continuous to areolate 19
- 19a. Ascospores muriform, 2 per acus, brown, $70-90 \times 15-25 \mu\text{m}$, perithecia sunken, algal cell in the hymenium globose, thallus rimose areolate, greyish brown ***Staurothele fissa***
- 19b. Ascospores transversely septate, hyaline 20
- 20a. Ascospores 3 septate, cylindrical to fusiform, $14-24 \times 3-5 \mu\text{m}$, perithecia 0.2-0.6 mm diam., greenish-brown to black, not overgrown by the thallus, ostiole inconspicuous or in a shallow depression ***Porina siamensis***
- 20b. Ascospores 7-9 septate 21
- 21a. Ostiole conspicuous, periostiolar region brown to black, perithecia 0.5 - 0.8 mm diam., 7-9 septate, $23-34 \times 5-9 \mu\text{m}$, fusiform with rounded ends ***Porina subinterstes***
- 21b. Ostiole usually inconspicuous, periostiolar area pale to dark brown or blackish, perithecia 0.3-0.8 mm diam., ascospores 7 septate, $24-44 \times 4-7 \mu\text{m}$, cylindrical or narrowly obclavate..... ***Porina tetracerae***
- 22a. Ascospores hyaline23
- 22b. Ascospores greyish brown to brown 57
- 23a. Ascospores simple, subglobose to ellipsoid, surface ornamented with cristae, $9-13 \times 7-9 \mu\text{m}$, thallus slightly squamulose ***Monoblastia pellucida***
- 23b. Ascospores septate24
- 24a. Ascospores transversely septate 25
- 24b. Ascospores muriform 56
- 25a. Ascospores 1-septate 26
- 25b. Ascospores 3 or more septate..... 41
- 26a. Perithecial wall hyphal, containing bark cells, pseudoparaphyses branched, but not anastomosing 27
- 26b. Perithecial wall cellular, lacking bark cells, pseudoparaphyses slender, branched and anastomosing especially above the asci 30
- 27a. Ascospores 2 per asci, 1-septate, sometimes constricted at both ends and appearing as 3 septate, large ($40-60 \times 15-25 \mu\text{m}$) ***Arthopyrenia finkii***
- 27b. Ascospores 8 per asci 28
- 28a. Distal cell of the ascospore is larger, ascospore $30-45 \times 14-18 \mu\text{m}$, perithecia solitary..... ***Arthopyrenia nidulans***
- 28b. Both the cells are almost equal in size 29
- 29a. Ostiole mammilate, perithecia solitary to 2-3 aggregate, ascospores $25-43 \times 6-11 \mu\text{m}$ ***Arthopyrenia indusiata***
- 29b. Ostiole not mammilate, perithecia solitary, ascospores $10-18 \times 5-7 \mu\text{m}$ ***Arthopyrenia alboatra***
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Discussion

The semi-evergreen forest in the Goa region exhibits maximum diversity of pyrenocarpous species. The trees along the streams in moist, shady habitats bear luxuriant growth of pyrenolichens which mostly belong to *Porina* and *Pyrenula* species. The occurrence of pyrenocarpous lichens indicates the abundant presence of smooth-barked trees in the State. Further, the occurrence of a large number of foliicolous lichens indicates that the State has several healthy and undisturbed forests. Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary as a whole and within Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, Avem, Bela to Zombolim,, Endrem to Tulshimol, Kuske waterfall area, Marlem, Nadkem and Ravan Donger are few such pristine habitats. With the addition of five new records, the total number of lichens species in Goa State increases to 165 species, out of which pyrenocarpous lichens represent almost half (48%).

Conclusion

The present study indicates the occurrence of a rich diversity of pyrenocarpous lichens in the Western

Ghats forests of Goa. It can be noted that among the protected areas within Goa, Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary represents more number of pyrenocarpous lichens. Further, along with the forest areas within Goa, the coconut, arecanut orchards and several cultivated plants also provide suitable habitats for lichen growth. The present study will be highly useful for monographic studies on pyrenocarpous lichens of India or the world and for environmental monitoring studies in the area.

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Authors' contributions

PR collected fresh samples of pyrenocarpous lichens from Goa and carried out their preliminary identification. GKM studied pyrenocarpous lichen specimens preserved in herbarium LWG and drafted the manuscript. SN authenticated identity of some pyrenocarpous lichens reported in the manuscript, improved the manuscript and supervised the whole study. DKU authenticated identity of some pyrenocarpous lichen specimens and suggested improvement in the manuscript. MKJ conceptualized the idea of studying lichens of Goa, supervised the work of author PR and provided intellectual inputs to the study.

Conflict of interests

The authors do not have any conflict of interests to declare.

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