



## First report of *Pseudoidium* sp. causing powdery mildew on *Tecoma capensis* in India

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### Abstract

In December, 2020 leaves of *Tecoma capensis* with typical symptoms of powdery mildew fungus was collected from the Baramati area of Pune district (M.S.), India. Based on its morphological characters, the pathogen was identified as *Pseudoidium* sp. (*Erysiphe* sp.). This work is emphasizing on first record of powdery mildew fungus *Pseudoidium* sp. on *Tecoma capensis* (Thunb.) Lindl. from India.

**Keywords** – *Erysiphe* – Powdery mildew

### Introduction

*Tecoma capensis* (Thunb.) Lindl. commonly known as cape-honeysuckle, evergreen fast growing ornamental shrub belonging to the family Bignoniaceae. It is native of Southern Africa and widely cultivated in warm temperate and tropical areas (Jothi et al. 2011). Leaves odd-pinnately compound, opposite, leaflets oval with blunt theet. Flowers orange to orange-red, available throughout the year (Singh et al. 2001). In traditional medicine *T. capensis* used to relieve pain and sleeplessness (Saini et al. 2012) and the anticancer activity were reported from crude methanol extract of *T. capensis* by Hamed et al. (2016).

The *T. capensis* are frequently found to be infected with powdery mildew fungus from study area. During the study morphological characters of host and microscopy of powdery mildew fungus were studied. It is revealed from the study that pathogen is *Pseudoidium* sp. and which is first time reported from Maharashtra state as well as India.

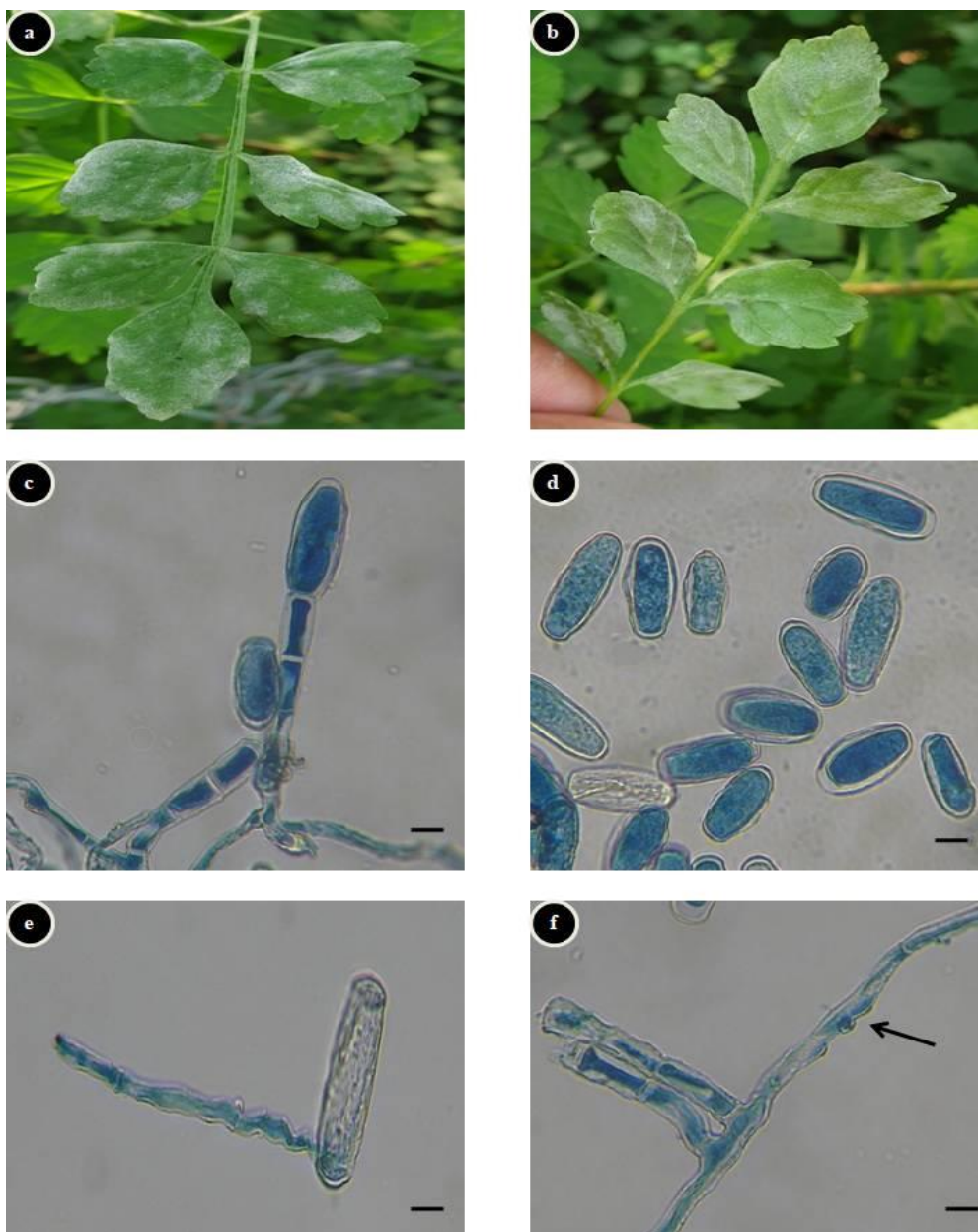
### Materials & Methods

The study area was Baramati, Dist. Pune, Maharashtra, India (18°16'04'N, 74°58'03'E, Altitude 555.19m). The infected leaves of *T. capensis* were collected during 2020-2021. Infection was more severe in months of January to March and totally absent during the rainy season. The infected material properly pressed, dried and the voucher specimen was deposited in the Ajrekar Mycological Herbarium at Agharkar Research Institute, Pune (M.S.), India (Accession No.AMH-10362). The fungal material was taken by leaf scraping, stained with cotton blue, mounted in lactophenol and microscopically examined under the Laben Research Microscope BM- 3000T (Binocular version).

Pathogenicity test was conducted in laboratory conditions at 24-28°C. In which potted *T. capensis* leaves were inoculated by conidial suspension of *Pseudoidium*. non-inoculated plants considered as control. After 7 to 9 days of inoculation same symptoms were observed on inoculated hosts which were recorded in the field conditions and *Pseudoidium* was resolated from the same.

## Results & Discussion

While the microscopic examination of fungus only anamorphic stage was found. The anamorph has morphologically characterized as: mycelium amphigenous, thin, forming patches; hyphae septate, hyaline, profusely branched; hyphal appressoria distinctly or slightly nipple shaped (Fig. 1f). Conidiophores erect, arises from the upper surface of mycelium, foot cells short, straight, cylindrical up to 22.44-26.18 x 07.48µm and average 23.18 x 07.48µm followed by 1–2 shorter cells (Fig. 1c). Conidia ellipsoid-ovoid to doliiform-cylindrical about 26.18-41.14 x 14.96-18.07µm and average 33.66 x 15. 33µm (Fig. 1d), fibrosin bodies absent and conidia formed singly. Germ tubes terminal to subterminal, more or less straight and about 52.36 to 104.72µm length (Fig. 1e).



**Fig. 1** – a Infected upper surface of leaf. b infected lower surface of leaf. c conidiophore (40x). d conidia (40x). e germinated conidium. f arrow indicates hyphal appressorium. Scale bar = 20 µm.

Considering the disease symptoms and microscopic characters of powdery mildew fungus on *T. capensis*, pathogen has confirmed as species of *Pseudoidium* (Braun & Cook 2012). According to the new ICN rules, *Pseudoidium* Hammet. is now a heterotypic synonym of *Erysiphe* DC. The teleomorph was found absent throughout the study.

As the literature available of powdery mildew, it is noticed that, *Erysiphe peruviana* first time reported from North America on *T. capensis* (Glawe et al. 2010) and *Oidium hiratae* (*Fibroidium hiratae*) first time reported from India on *T. capensis* (Paul & Thakur 2006, Hosagoudar & Agarwal 2009). As well as in the present study we also recorded *Pseudoidium* sp. on the same host plant. So, we concluded that, this is the first report of powdery mildew caused by *Erysiphe* sp. (*Pseudoidium* sp.) on *Tecoma capensis* from India.

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