FUNGI IMPERFECTI FROM MADRAS—IV

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A collection of this fungus was recently made by me at Madras. Thaxter's (1903) diagnosis of his fungus is very brief and omits many details which would help in the identification of this species. A detailed description would not therefore be out of place and is given below, based on a study of the material collected by me.

The fungus appeared as somewhat pinkish masses on dead and moist wood in a cool, shady habitat. Under a hand lens numerous pinhead-like pinkish aggregations could be seen on the substratum. Microscopic examination revealed that these pinhead-like aggregations were heads of conidia. The vegetative hyphae are thin-walled, hyaline, septate, branched, 4·8–9·6 μ broad. The conidiophores arise as lateral branches from cells of the hyphae, or may be terminal at the tips of hyphae, and are simple, unbranched, more or less clavate with gradually or abruptly swollen, rounded apices on which the conidia are borne in heads (Fig. 1: A, B, C, D, E). The conidiophores are hyaline, smooth, non-septate or up to 5-septate, 50–120 μ long, 6·4–9·6 μ broad at the base, the swollen apical cell being 30–58 μ long, and 17–35 μ broad where it is widest. The conidia are produced all over on the swollen apex of the conidiophore. The conidia (Fig. 1: L) are of various shapes (pyriform, napiform or turbinate), smooth-walled, with 1–2 transverse septa, with a short pedicellate base and a somewhat triangular, hyaline, relatively thin-walled basal cell and thicker walled, pale pinkish coloured upper cell or cells, 20–44×14–26 μ. Normally, the terminal cell of the conidium is broadly rounded, but is sometimes broadened and may be bilobed (Fig. 1: M). Abnormal conidia of other shapes are also found (Fig. 1: M).

The development of the conidiophore appears to be as follows. The conidiophore arises as a lateral outgrowth from a cell of the vegetative hypha (Fig. 1: F), elongates, and also swells to some extent (Fig. 1: G, H),
Fig. 1. *Cephalophora irregularis*, from Herb. M.U.B.L., No. 837, showing A, a head of conidia; B–E, conidiophores with conidia attached, and without conidia; F–K, stages in the development of the conidiophore and conidia; L, normal mature conidia; M, abnormal conidia.

more so towards the apex so as to become clavate. A cross wall is then formed about the middle of the conidiophore (Fig. 1: I), followed later by the formation of another cross wall nearer the base of the conidiophore (Fig. 1: J). Subsequent elongation of the conidiophore and formation of