

***HYGROPHORUS MARZUOLUS*, A NEW REPORT FROM PAKISTAN**

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Abstract

Hygrophorus marzuolus (Fr.) Bres., is reported for the first time from Gilgit Valley, Pakistan. This species is characterized by the production of white fruiting body with black-gray cap and ellipsoidal spores that are 6-8x4-5µm in size.

The specimen was collected from Haramoush, District Gilgit (alt. 2707m, N= 3528, E= 7446) growing on the ground in late summer (2005). After the macro- and microscopic examination, it was identified as *Hygrophorus marzuolus* after reference to Demoulin & Marriott (1981) and Surcek (1988).

The fruit bodies were up to 10cm in length with a thick layer of firm flesh. At first the whole fruit body is white but soon the cap surface turns to black-grey (Fig. 1A). The fruit body is often deformed and contaminated by the soil since it grows from a greater depth. Stipe is short, thick and grayish in color. Gills are thick and distant; white at first then turns black-gray. It has a sweetish smell and mild taste. Spore 6-8x4-5µm in diameters, ellipsoid, smooth and colorless (Fig. 1B). It is an edible fungus. This appears to be the first record of *Hygrophorus marzuolus* from Pakistan (Mirza & Qureshi, 1978; Ahmed, 1997).

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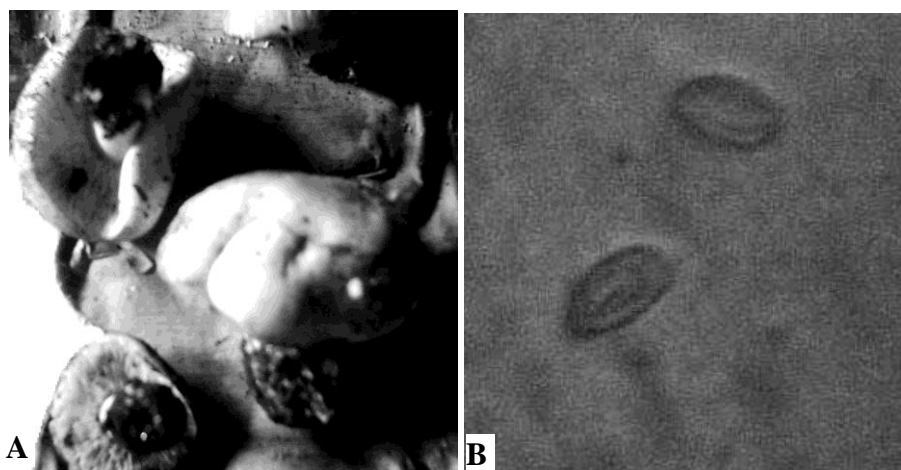


Fig. 1. *Hygrophorus marzuolus*. A= Fruit body, B= Spores.

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