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Synonymy of *Ejectosporus magnus* and *Simuliomyces spica*, and a new species, *Ejectosporus trisporus*, from winter-emerging stoneflies

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Abstract: The Trichomycete, *Ejectosporus magnus*, from *Allocapnia* spp. was determined to be a vegetative spore stage of another harpellid, *Simuliomyces spica*. A voucher slide of *E. magnus* made from a stonefly nymph that was part of the same collection as the holotype had thalli bearing trichospores of both *E. magnus* and *S. spica*. I conclude that these are one species; therefore *Ejectosporus* is emended and the species is treated as *E. spica*. Also, a new species, *E. trisporus*, is described from *Allocapnia pygmaea* (Plecoptera: Capniidae) collected in eastern Canada. This species has vegetative spores and trichospores with characteristics similar to *E. spica*, but the two species are separated by differences in zygospore sizes.

Key words: gut fungi, Harpellales, symbiotic, taxonomy, trimorphic

INTRODUCTION

The Trichomycetes are a group of fungi associated with the digestive tracts of insects and other invertebrates. Studies of these fungi have typically also included other groups of gut-inhabiting organisms, such as *Paramoebidium* spp. (Amoebidiales), that produce amoeboid cells and now are considered protists (Lichtwardt et al 2001a). Molecular analyses suggest that the fungal orders within the Trichomycetes are not a natural group and that members of the Harpellales are most closely related to the Kickxellales (Zygomycetes) (Benny and White 2001, Gottlieb and Lichtwardt 2001, White 2002).

The Harpellales are probably the best-known group of Trichomycetes, and this order contains the largest number of described species (Lichtwardt 1986, Lichtwardt et al 2001a). The genera and species are separated primarily on the morphology of the asexual trichospores and sexual zygospores. Consideration is also given to features of the thallus such as

branching patterns, septation and holdfast characteristics. A few species exhibit dimorphism manifested as either different trichospore sizes or the production of vegetative propagules in addition to trichospores and zygospores (Lichtwardt et al 2001a). In addition there appears to be some degree of host specificity, at least to host order (Lichtwardt 1986).

Winter-emerging stoneflies in the family Capniidae have been a rich source of Trichomycete species wherever these hosts have been examined. Peterson and Lichtwardt (1983) and Lichtwardt et al (1991) have reported four species from the hindguts of stoneflies of the genus *Allocapnia* Claassen, often co-occurring in a single nymph. Species described from *Allocapnia* include *Simuliomyces spica* S.W. Peterson & Lichtw. and *Genistelloides hibernus* S.W. Peterson, Lichtw. & B.W. Horn, and these both produce typical harpellid trichospores and zygospores (Lichtwardt 1986). *Simuliomyces spica* was separated from the type species *Simuliomyces microsporus* Lichtw. based on differences in trichospore dimensions, thallus features and the fact that *S. microsporus* occurs in blackfly (Simuliidae) larvae. Both species share Type I zygospores, and the morphological features of the sexual spores overlap considerably (Peterson and Lichtwardt 1983).

Ejectosporus magnus S.W. Peterson, Lichtw. & M.C. Williams also was described from *Allocapnia* spp. stoneflies, and this monotypic genus was defined mostly by an unusual feature of the trichospore (Lichtwardt et al 1991). The trichospore is not released from the thallus (nondeciduous); rather a lunated sporangiospore is extruded from the monosporous sporangium in the gut where it was produced. Lichtwardt et al (1991) in their original description questioned the adaptive value of this mechanism for transmission from host to host. They also noted the co-occurrence of *E. magnus* with other species in the host gut and made specific reference to the frequent association of *S. spica*, and other harpellid species, with *E. magnus*. I present data in this paper to warrant emending the description of *Ejectosporus* and synonymizing *E. magnus* and *S. spica*.

Records of Trichomycetes in Canada are sparse with only two published accounts from Newfoundland (Frost and Manier 1971, Lichtwardt et al 2001b) and some references to Canadian collections in

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Lichtwardt et al (2001a). Collections of these fungi in Prince Edward Island (PEI) and Nova Scotia (NS) will be reported elsewhere, but over the course of these studies I collected stoneflies (*Allocapnia pygmaea* Burmeister) that routinely contained a complex of up to four species of gut fungi and two species of *Paramoebidium* L. Leger & Duboscq in a single host. A new species, *E. trisporus* is described from Tyne Valley, PEI, that belongs in the emended genus *Ejectosporus*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Stoneflies identified as *Allocapnia pygmaea* (Harper and Hynes 1971, Stewart and Stark 1988) were collected in a D-net by kick sampling at two sites in PEI, Arlington (46°31'21"N, 63°55'09"W) and Tyne Valley (46°34'14"N, 63°55'44"W), and at Sackville, NS (44°46'15"N, 63°41'22"W). Samples were taken at the PEI sites 14 Dec 2002, 17 Dec 2003 and 16 Feb 2004 and at the NS site 3 Nov and 21 Dec 2003 and 1, 5, 13 Jan and 3 Mar 2004. These collections spanned the mid to late stages of nymph development. The hindguts were removed from the nymphs with fine forceps and dissected in distilled water. Wet mounts were examined for Trichomycete thalli and spores. The fungi were identified using keys in Lichtwardt (1986) and Lichtwardt et al (2001a). Morphological data on fungal structures and digital images were recorded on a Zeiss Axioplan digital microscopy system at the Saint Mary's University Taxonomy Laboratory, and semipermanent slides were made of fungi stained with lactophenol cotton blue according to instructions in Lichtwardt (1986). Reference collections of the insect hosts were preserved in 80% ethanol.

RESULTS

Synonymy of Simuliomyces spica and Ejectosporus magnus.—Lichtwardt et al (1991) in their original description of *E. magnus* commented on the co-occurrence of this species with other Trichomycetes, specifically *S. spica*, in the gut of *Allocapnia* stoneflies. My observations of single thalli producing trichospores characteristic of both these species in *Allocapnia pygmaea* from eastern Canada prompted me to examine the holotypes and other collections of *E. magnus* and *S. spica* to determine the true identity of these fungi.

Lichtwardt's slide (AL-7-21) prepared from nymphs that were part of the holotype collection of *E. magnus* contained a thallus bearing trichospores of both *E. magnus* and *S. spica* on separate branches (FIGS. 1–4). This provides evidence that the two fungi are actually one species so should be synonymized. For reasons explained fully below this species is best placed in *Ejectosporus* after emendment of the genus concept.

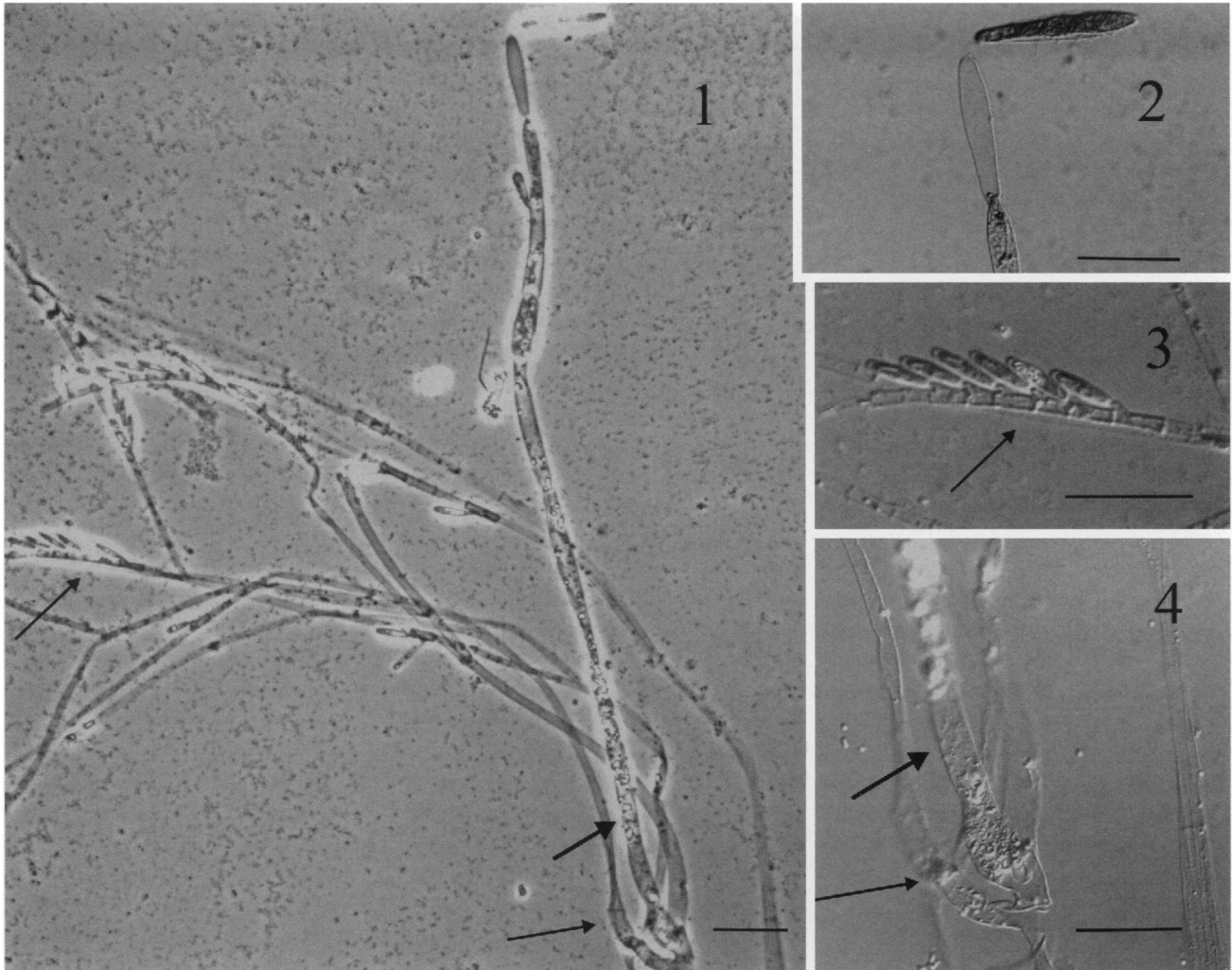
Ejectosporus S.W. Peterson, Lichtw. & M.C. Williams emend. Strongman

Three spore types produced. Trichospores bearing 2 appendages, typically 8–16 spores produced at the distal ends of thin, fertile branches. Vegetative spores produced on thicker branches (4–6/branch), extruding lunate sporangiospores *in situ* with the sporangial and spore wall remaining attached to the branch. Zygosporophores biconical, tips colinear or slightly bent toward zygosporophore when mature, zygosporophores slightly swollen at the point of attachment to the spore, medially, at right angles to the zygosporophore (Type I).

Ejectosporus magnus and *S. spica* could be placed in either *Ejectosporus* or *Simuliomyces*. The type species, *S. microsporus*, was described from blackfly larvae (Lichtwardt 1972). Also, the number of trichospore appendages is variable (2–4), and they are long and thin. The thallus of *S. microsporus* is regularly septate, branched from a basal holdfast and produces trichospores along the entire length of the branches. The generative cells are typically longer than the trichospores. Zygosporophores are borne on short, bulbous zygosporophores.

Simuliomyces spica, from stonefly nymphs, is distinguished from *S. microsporus* by trichospore size, appendage number and differences in the zygosporophore (Peterson and Lichtwardt 1983). The thallus of *S. spica* is mostly non-septate, it has long branches arising from a prostrate central axis and the trichospores are produced in series along the fertile tips of these branches with the trichospores normally longer than the generative cells. The zygosporophore is long and only slightly enlarged where it joins onto the zygosporophore. Peterson and Lichtwardt (1983) noted that both the stonefly host and blackfly larvae cohabited the type locality for *S. spica*, but neither *S. spica* nor *S. microsporus* was found colonizing the blackfly host at that site, implying that *S. spica*, although present, was not capable of colonizing the typical host (blackfly) for *S. microsporus*.

Examination of the type slides of *S. microsporus* (WYO-14-19), *E. magnus* (AL-7-15) and other slides of both *E. magnus* and *S. spica* obtained from the collection of Dr. R.W. Lichtwardt confirmed the morphological differences between *S. spica* and *S. microsporus* described above. The type slide of *S. spica* (MIS-9-102) unfortunately had deteriorated, but the zygosporophore characteristics were still visible. *Simuliomyces microsporus* has never been reported, as yet, to produce vegetative spores, although it has been widely collected (Lichtwardt 1972, Lichtwardt et al 2001a). Therefore the differences between *S. spica* and the type species, as well as the recognition of a



FIGS. 1–4. *Ejectosporus magnus* (Slide AL-7-21) from R.W. Lichtwardt, University of Kansas. 1. Thallus showing branches bearing either spores of *Ejectosporus magnus* (big arrow) or trichospores of *Simuliomyces spica* (small arrows) arising from a common basal cell. 2. Vegetative spore released from sporangium. 3. Trichospore details at small arrow in FIG. 1. 4. Details of the branching from the basal cell. Large arrow is base of branch bearing vegetative spore, branch at small arrow has trichospores. Scale bars: 1 = 50 μm , 2–4 = 20 μm .

vegetative spore stage in the life history of *S. spica*, support moving *S. spica* out of the genus.

Ejectosporus magnus is monotypic and is recognized here as a vegetative spore form of *S. spica*. The evidence supports moving *S. spica* out of the genus *Simuliomyces* so *Ejectosporus* is emended above to accommodate *S. spica*. Because the epithet *spica* is older than *magnus* it is used for the new combination.

Ejectosporus spica (S.W. Peterson & Lichtw.) Strongman comb. nov.

= = *Simuliomyces spica* S.W. Peterson & Lichtw. Mycologia 75:246. 1983.

= = *Ejectosporus magnus* S.W. Peterson, Lichtw. & M.C. Williams Mycologia 83:389. 1991.

Thallus branched, from a prostrate central axis,

branches forming either elongate-ellipsoidal trichospores $12\text{--}14\text{--}16 \times 2 \mu\text{m}$, no collar, with 2 short, stiff appendages, or, nondeciduous, vegetative spores, clavate to elongate-ellipsoidal $50\text{--}85 \times 8\text{--}10 \mu\text{m}$. Vegetative spores extruding lunulate sporangiospores in situ. Zygosporophores biconical, $36\text{--}43 \times 7\text{--}10 \mu\text{m}$, attached to zygosporophores medially, at right angles (Type I), zygosporophore slightly swollen, formed from swellings along one of the pair of hyphae undergoing scalariform conjugations, resulting often in a row of zygosporophores produced. Attached to hindgut of *Allocaepnia* sp. (Plecoptera: Capniidae) nymphs.

Specimens examined. USA. ALABAMA: microscope slides of *E. magnus* AL-7-15 (HOLOTYPE FH), AL-7-6 (ISOTYPE), AL-7-1, AL-7-8, and AL-7-21. TEXAS: microscope slides of *E. magnus*, TX-1-1, TX-1-2, TX-1-10. OKLAHOMA:

microscope slide OK-2-3 of *E. magnus*. Collection details can be found in Lichtwardt et al (1991). MISSOURI: microscope slide (MIS-9-102) of *S. spica* (HOLOTYPE FH). All slides, other than the holotypes, were borrowed from the collection of R.W. Lichtwardt, University of Kansas. All the slides had thalli identified as *E. magnus* and *S. spica* on them.

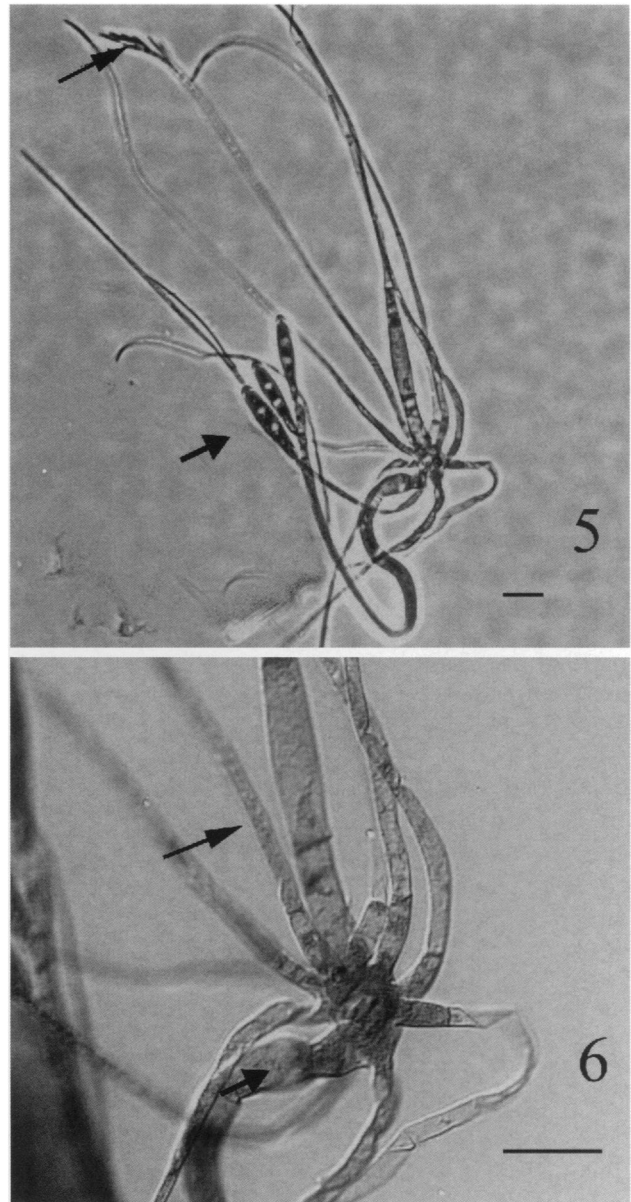
New species of Ejectosporus from eastern Canada.—Trichomycete species recovered from *Allocapnia pygmaea* collected at two sites in eastern Canada included *Genistelloides hibernus*, *Capniomyces stellatus* S.W. Peterson & Lichtw., a species with characteristics similar to *E. spica*, an unidentified species of *Lancisporomyces* Santam., and the protistans, *Paramoebidium corpulentum* Lichtw. & M.C. Williams and a *Paramoebidium* sp. All these organisms frequently were found together in the hindgut of a single host.

Individual thalli bearing two types of spores like *E. spica* were observed in this host (FIGS. 5 and 6). I also observed that some spores were extruded and attached themselves to the hindgut or thalli within the host where they were produced (FIGS. 7 and 8) then proceeded to grow there (FIG. 9), suggesting that this trichospore type is vegetative in function rather than dispersive like other harpellid trichospores. These extruded vegetative spores appear to branch at the base and can produce trichospores from a reduced thallus composed of only a few branches (FIGS. 10 and 11). Zygospores and trichospores were seen in the guts of *A. pygmaea* in the final nymph stages collected at the PEI and NS sites. Zygospore size fell wholly outside the range for the closest matching species, *S. spica* (= *E. spica*). This fungus then, with three functionally different spore types, matches the emended description of *Ejectosporus* but is separated from the type species on the basis of zygospore size so is described here as a new species.

***Ejectosporus trisporus* Strongman sp. nov.** FIGS. 12–16

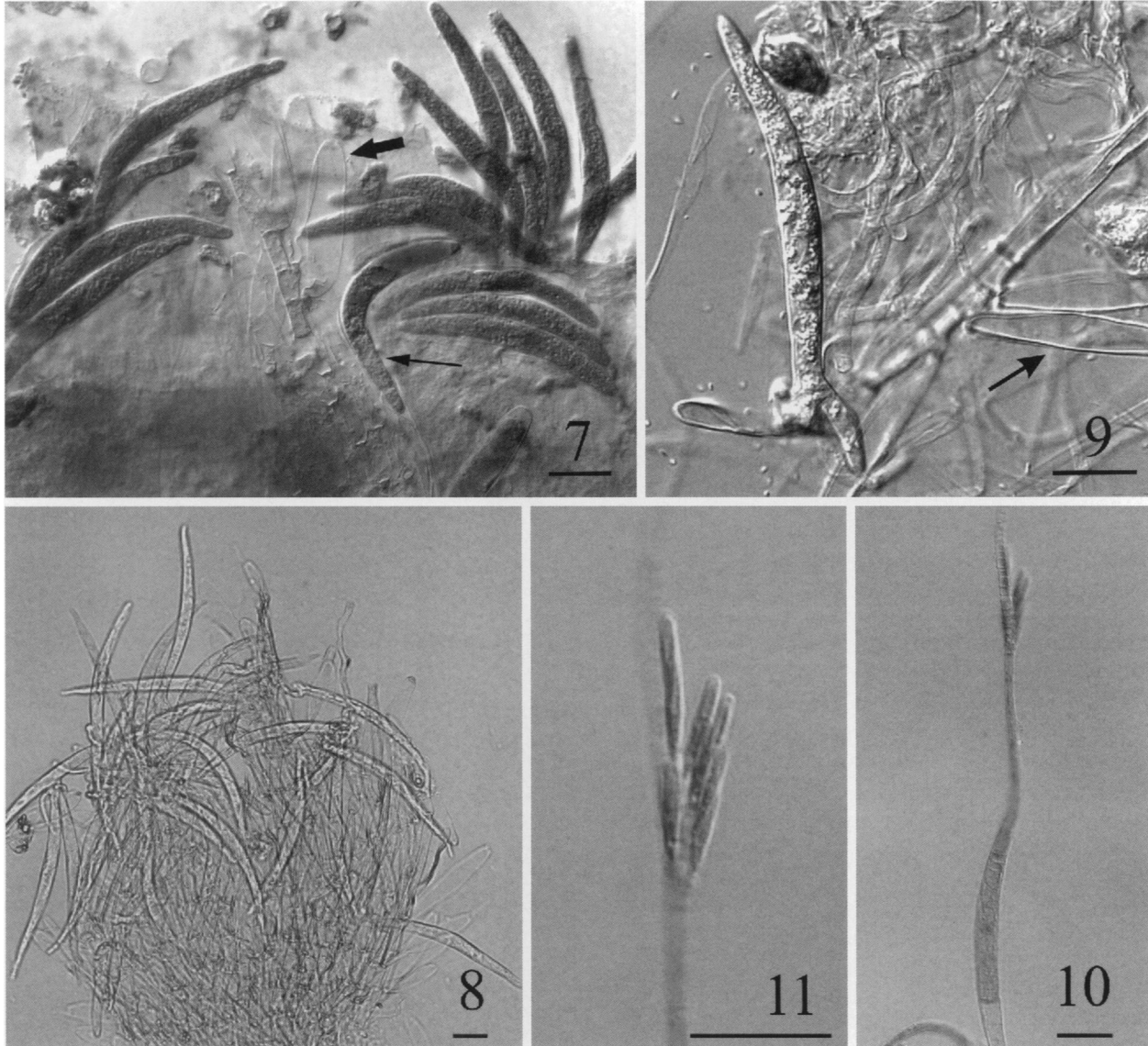
Thallus ab axe centrale prostratoque ramosus; rami aut trichosporas elongato-ellipsoideas 12–18.5 × 4.5 μm, sine collo, appendicibus 2 brevibus rigidisque, aut sporas vegetativas nondeciduasque clavatas vel elongate-ellipsoideas 72–86 × 8–11.5 μm formantes. Zygosporae biconicae, 54–71 × 9–12.5(–14) μm, ad zygosporophora ad angulum 90° medifixae (Typus I); zygosporophorum leviter tumidum, a tumoribus secus hypham unicam paris conjugationis scalariformes subientis, ut series zygosporarum saepe gignitur. In proctodaeo nympharum *Allocapniarum* affixus.

Thallus branched, sometimes from a prostrate central axis, branches form either trichospores 12–18.5 × 2–4.5 μm with 2 short, stiff appendages and no collar, or nondeciduous, vegetative spores, elongate-ellipsoidal 72–86 × 8–11.5 μm when fully mature



FIGS. 5 and 6. Thallus of Trichomycete from *Allocapnia* stoneflies collected from eastern Canada. 5. Single thallus bearing vegetative spores (big arrow) and trichospores (small arrow) like *E. spica*. 6. Details of branching at base of thallus. Branch at large arrow bearing vegetative spores, small arrow indicates a branch with trichospores. Scale bars: 5 and 6 = 20 μm.

(FIG. 12). Branches forming trichospores thin (3–5 μm wide at base) with 8–16 trichospores forming along one side of the fertile tip (FIGS. 13 and 14). Vegetative spores formed on thicker (5–8 μm) branches extruding lunate sporangiospores in situ leaving the sporangial and spore walls attached to the thallus (FIG. 7). Zygospores biconical, 54–71 × 9–12.5(–14) μm attached to the zygosporophore medially at right angles (Type I) with tips slightly bent



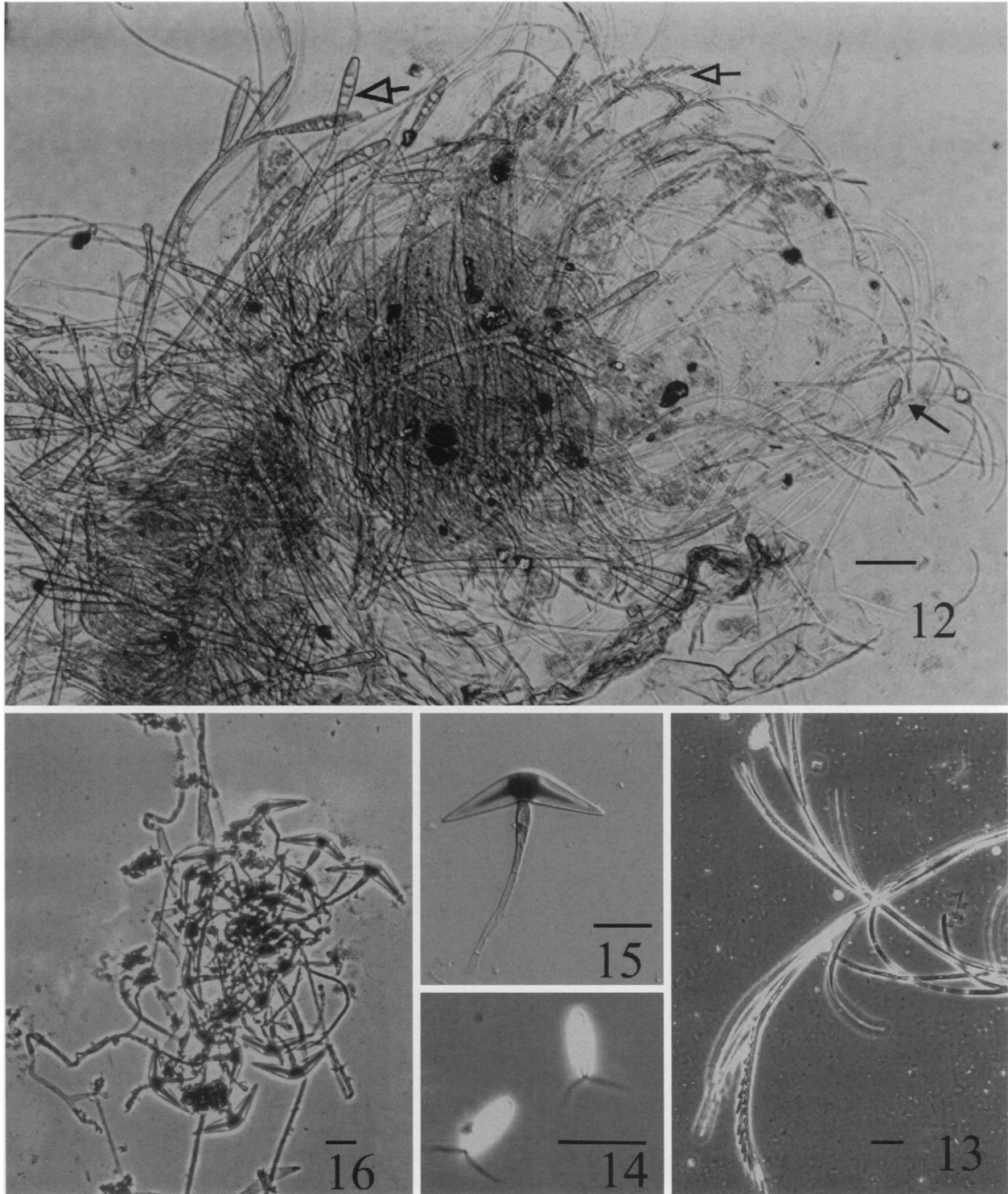
FIGS. 7–11. Vegetative spores. 7. Vegetative spores released and attached to hindgut of the host. Big arrow indicates spore wall attached to the thallus, small arrow shows spore extruding. 8. Extruded spores attached to spent thalli. 9. Extruded vegetative spore beginning to branch while attached to a thallus. Spent sporangia at arrow. 10. Thallus from extruded vegetative spore producing trichospores. 11. Trichospores. Scale bars: 7–11 = 20 μm .

toward the zygosporophore, zygosporophore slightly swollen, $24\text{--}32.5 \times 5\text{--}6.5\text{--}8.5$ μm (FIGS. 15 and 16), formed from swellings along one of the pair of hyphae undergoing scalariform conjugations, resulting often in a row of zygosporophores produced. Rarely, zygosporophores are released without the zygosporophore attached. Attached to the hindgut of *Allocapnia* (Plecoptera: Capniidae) nymphs.

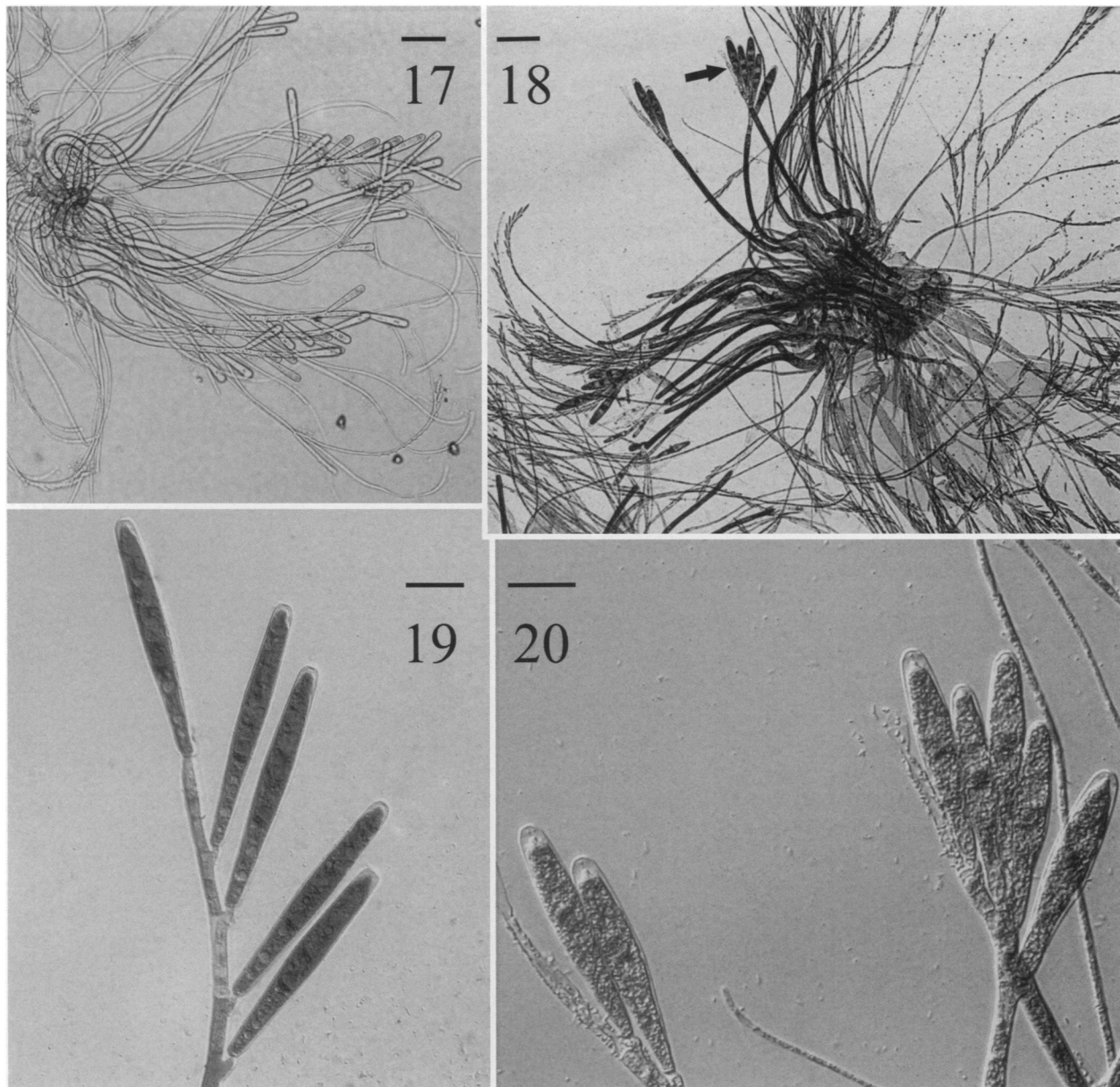
Specimens examined. CANADA. PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND: Tyne Valley, $46^{\circ}34'14''\text{N}$, $63^{\circ}55'44''\text{W}$. Microscope slide TV-1 prepared from a specimen of *A. pygmaea* collected on 16 Feb 2004 (HOLOTYPE FH). This slide illustrates the trichospores and zygosporophores only. Slides TV-5, 14 Dec 2002 and TV-4, 14 Dec 2002 (PARATYPES FH) from

the type locality show vegetative spores and trichospores. The type and paratype slides also contain sporulating thalli of *G. hibernus* and some species of the protistan, *Paramoebidium*. Arlington, $46^{\circ}31'21''\text{N}$, $63^{\circ}55'09''\text{W}$. Slides prepared from *A. pygmaea* on 17 Dec 2003 and 16 Feb 2004. NOVA SCOTIA: Sackville, $44^{\circ}46'15''\text{N}$, $63^{\circ}41'22''\text{W}$. Slides prepared from *A. pygmaea* on 3 Nov and 21 Dec 2003, 1, 5, 13 Jan and 3 Mar 2004. Zygosporophores and trichospores (no vegetative spores) were observed on the slides from the Jan and Mar collections. All slides other than the holotype and paratype are in the author's collection.

Commentary. *Ejectosporus trisporus* and *E. spica* overlap in morphology and in the size ranges of trichospores and vegetative spores. The zygosporophores have



FIGS. 12–16. *Ejectosporus trisporus*. 12. Thalli of *E. trisporus* with both vegetative spores (large open arrow) and trichospores (small open arrow). Note trichospore of *Genistelloides hibernus* at filled arrow, lower right. 13. Trichospores in row along one side of fertile tip. 14. Released trichospores with two short, stiff appendages. 15. Released zygospore. 16. Mass of zygospores. Scale bars: 12 = 50 μm , 13–16 = 20 μm .

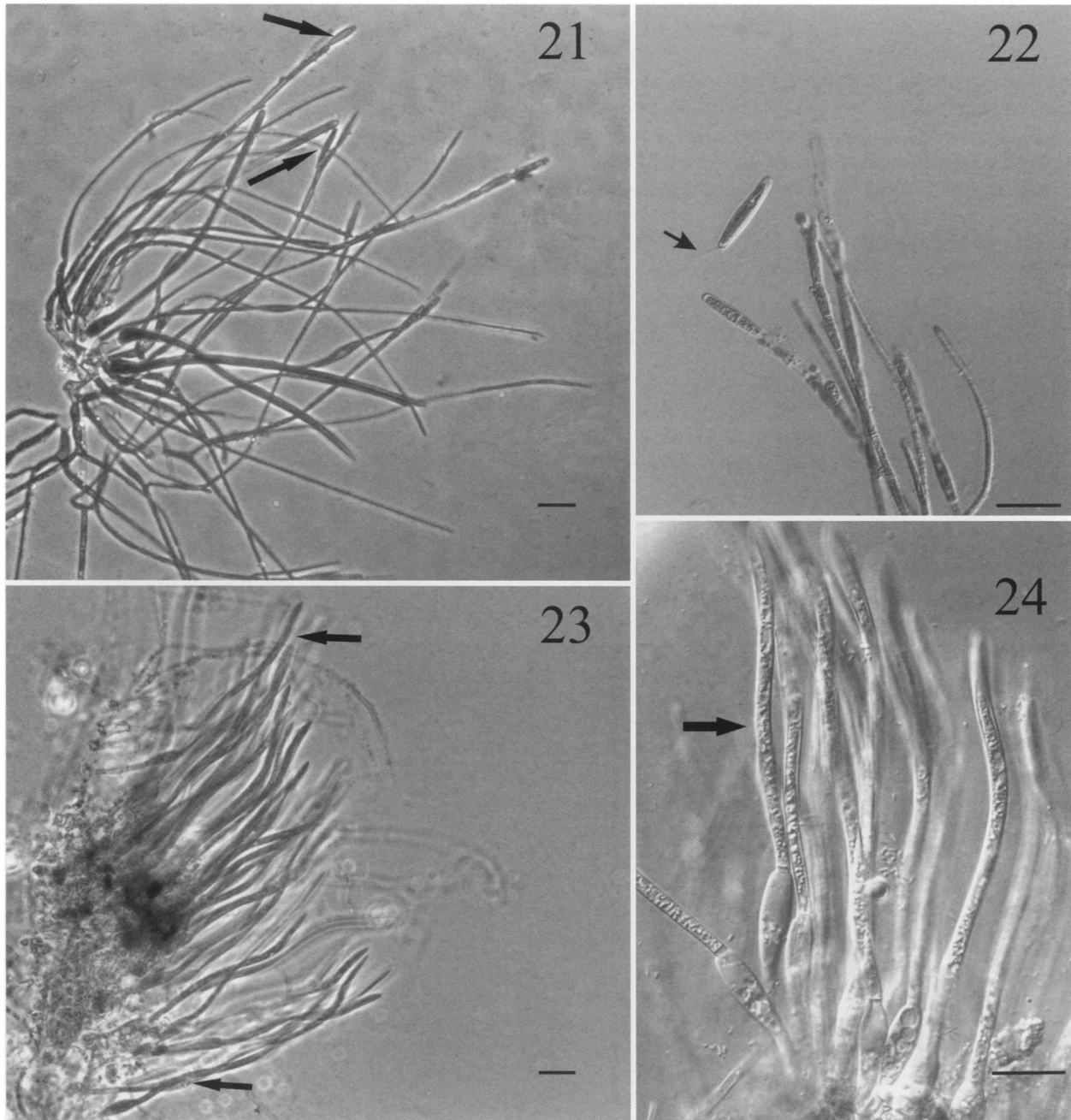


FIGS. 17–20. Morphology of vegetative spores of *E. trisporus* and *E. spica*. 17. Branches producing immature vegetative spores of *E. trisporus*. Note sigmoid base on branches. 18. Branches producing nearly mature vegetative spores (arrow) of *E. spica*. 19. Elongate-ellipsoidal mature spores of *E. trisporus*. 20. Clavate, mature spores of *E. spica*. Scale bars: 17 and 18 = 50 μm , 19 and 20 = 20 μm .

similar developmental features but the longer length and width of the spore in *E. trisporus* easily separates the two species. Both species produce trichospores that are similar in shape, appendage characteristics and ontogeny. Spore dimensions vary, but a frequency analysis on spore length of *E. trisporus* from PEI and NS showed most (73/100) were 14–16 μm (range 12–19 μm) long whereas those of *E. spica* are slightly shorter at 12–15 μm (101/120, range 10–17), based on measurements made from the slides borrowed from R.W. Lichtwardt. The vegetative spores

in both species are borne on nonseptate, thick branches, which often are sigmoid at the base (FIGS. 17 and 18). When fully mature, the spores are distinctly elongate-ellipsoidal in *E. trisporus* (FIG. 19), whereas they are more clavate in *E. spica* (FIG. 20). The overlap in trichospore and vegetative spore dimensions between the two species of *Ejectosporus* may pose a difficulty in separating them with confidence if zygospores are not present.

Frequently larger (22–32 \times 4–6.5 μm) trichospores with two appendages (FIGS. 21 and 22) oc-



FIGS. 21–24. Large trichospores in *Allocapnia pygmaea*. 21. Thallus bearing large trichospores (arrows). 22. Released trichospore with two appendages (arrow). 23. Thallus with zygospores of a *Lancisporomyces* sp. (arrows). 24. Details of *Lancisporomyces* sp. zygospore, elongated part of the spore at the arrow and bulbous base below. Scale bars: 21–24 = 20 μ m.

curred on thalli in guts of stoneflies collected at the PEI and NS sites. These trichospores are borne on thalli with characteristics similar to *E. trisporus* (FIG. 21), but the size, shape and appendage characteristics (FIG. 22) are similar to trichospores of *Lancisporomyces* or *Genistelloides* S.W. Peterson, Lichtw. & B.W. Horn. An unidentified species of *Lancisporomyces* also occurred in the *Allocapnia* hosts that contained *E. trisporus* (FIGS. 23 and 24); however, I could not di-

rectly connect these large trichospores with the zygospores of the unidentified *Lancisporomyces* so no definitive identification based on these trichospores is possible.

DISCUSSION

Ejectosporus spica and *E. trisporus* both produce a unique trichospore that is vegetative in function, an-

other form of trichospore that is dispersive, and a sexual zygospore. Spore types whose function appear to be recolonization of the infested host are known in two other genera of Trichomycetes, the monotypic *Allantomyces caenidarum* M.C. Williams & Lichtw. and *Graminella* L. Leger & M.Gauthier ex Manier, with two species. Both *Graminella* species produce vegetative propagules that form in clusters at the base of the thallus and develop into new thalli within the gut of the host where they were produced (Lichtwardt and Moss 1981). The ontogeny and release mechanism of these are completely different from the vegetative spores of *E. spica* and *E. trisporus*. *Allantomyces caenidarum* produces allantoid vegetative spores on the same branches with trichospores (Williams and Lichtwardt 1993). These vegetative cells detach and can extrude and grow into thalli in the gut of the same host. *Ephemerellomyces aquilonius* M.M. White & Lichtw. also produces trichospores that detach and can extrude in situ (White and Lichtwardt 2004). In this species no morphologically distinct vegetative spore exists; however, some trichospores appear to extrude and produce a small thallus that sporulates immediately. The vegetative spores in these species differ morphologically and detach from the thallus before they extrude which differentiates them from the vegetative spores produced in *E. spica* and *E. trisporus*.

Another harpellid, *Legeriomyces aenigmaticus* Lichtw. & M.C. Williams, produces trichospores with three different size ranges. The spores are released into the environment and, to my knowledge, none have a vegetative function like *Graminella*, *Allantomyces*, *Ephemerellomyces* or *Ejectosporus*.

Within the Harpellales only one genus has members that are known from more than one order of host. *Glottzia plecopterorum* Lichtw. inhabits stoneflies (Plecoptera), while the other five species occur in mayflies (Ephemeroptera) (Misra and Lichtwardt 2000, White and Lichtwardt 2004). This suggests that harpellids typically show some degree of host specificity so the transfer of *S. spica* out of *Simuliomyces* is supported because the type species, *S. microsporus* occurs in a different order (Diptera).

Peterson and Lichtwardt (1983) in placing *S. spica* in that genus rather than *Genistelloides* noted that, among other characteristics, the zygospores of *S. spica* were more flattened where the zygosporophore was attached whereas those of *Genistelloides* spp. had tips of the zygospore bent toward the zygosporophore. The zygospores of *E. trisporus* are typically bent (FIG. 16) as in *Genistelloides* spp., but the trichospore features and presence of vegetative spores in *E. trisporus* clearly differentiate this species from species of *Genistelloides*.

In the original species description of *E. magnus* Lichtwardt et al (1991) described long, thin branches that appeared to be sterile. These sterile branches commonly were observed on thalli also producing branches bearing vegetative spores of *E. trisporus* from collections in eastern Canada. Some thalli do produce trichospores on these long, thin branches and vegetative spores simultaneously, on separate branches arising from the central axis of the thallus. Of note, these long, sterile branches also are found on thalli producing zygospores, but trichospore production is rarer on these thalli than on those producing both trichospores and vegetative spores.

Lichtwardt et al (1991) questioned the adaptive value of the rapid, within-host release of the trichospore contents for spore dispersal and transmission in *E. magnus*. It seems that this spore stage functions to increase thallus density within the gut of a host and therefore works in conjunction with the dispersive trichospore stage to increase the spore load in the environment and promote colonization within the host population. The prevalence of vegetative spore production in the earlier stages of host development, as seen in *E. trisporus*, supports this idea. As the host develops into the pre-adult stages the disappearance of the vegetative stage coincides with zygospore production. This adaptation to the reduced number of available hosts along with their low vagility might indicate a strategy where the fungus retreats to the sediments or vegetation until the next generation of stoneflies is active, which can be several months later. An interesting question to explore is whether young nymphs are infested before diapause or if the fungus exists in a dormant phase (e.g., zygospores) in the environment until the host becomes available again.

KEY TO SPECIES OF *SIMULIOMYCES* AND *EJECTOSPORUS*

- 1a. Thallus regularly septate, branches short, with long-ellipsoidal trichospores ($20\text{--}26 \times 4\text{--}5 \mu\text{m}$) produced from small outgrowths along the whole branch, biconical zygospores ($34\text{--}45 \times 7\text{--}8 \mu\text{m}$) borne on short bulbous zygosporophores, in blackfly larvae (Simuliidae) *Simuliomyces microsporus*
- 1b. Long branches arising regularly either from a prostrate central axis or from the base of an enlarged cell, non-septate except near base of branches and where spores form, trichospores ($<20 \mu\text{m}$) produced along one side at fertile tip of long branches, may have nondeciduous vegetative spores produced on thicker branches or biconical zygospores attached at right angles to the zygosporophore, in stonefly nymphs (Capniidae) 2
- 2a. Vegetative spores slightly clavate ($50\text{--}85 \times 8\text{--}10 \mu\text{m}$), 4–6 spores produced terminally and along the fertile tip of thick branches, lunate sporangiospore

ejected from sporangium when mature, zygospores $36\text{--}43 \times 7\text{--}10 \mu\text{m}$ *Ejectosporus spica*

- 2b. Vegetative spores elongate-ellipsoidal ($72\text{--}86 \times 8\text{--}11.5 \mu\text{m}$), 4–6 spores produced terminally and along the fertile tip of thick branches, lunatic spangiospore ejected from sporangium when mature, zygospores $54\text{--}71 \times 9\text{--}12.5\text{--}(14) \mu\text{m}$ *E. trisporus*

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