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Description: Colonies amphigenous, mostly epiphyllous, thin, up to 5mm in diameter, confluent. Hyphae straight to substraight, branching alternate to opposite at acute angles, loosely reticulate, cells 20-38 x 6-8µm. Appressoria alternate to opposite, straight, spreading, antrorse, 10-14µm long; stalk cells cylindrical to cuneate, 2-6µm long; head cells globose, entire, 8-10µm. Phialides mixed with appressoria, alternate to opposite, ampulliform, 16-18 x 6-8µm. Mycelial setae scattered and grouped around perithecia, straight, simple, acute to variously dentate at the tip, up to 342µm long. Perithecia scattered, verrucose, up to 116µm in diam.; ascospores ellipsoidal, 4-septate, constricted, 30-32 x 10-12µm.

Host range: *Zizyphus* spp.

Distribution: India

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BILATERAL CORNEAL OPACITY IN A LEOPARD (*PANTHERA PARDUS*)

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plus web supplement of 1 page

A female leopard "Uttara" aged about 9yr at Nandankannan Zoo developed bilateral corneal opacity with impairment of vision on 19 June 2002. She was treated with intramuscular vitamin-A 6lac unit (Vitamin-A injection 2ml*) and cefotaxime sodium 1g (Taxim injection 1g**) once daily for five days along with Gentamycin eye drop (Genticyn eye drop, 5ml***) instillation into both eyes after restraining in a squeeze cage. There was improvement in vision, but the animal developed opacity and blindness after about one year. The previous treatment schedule did not improve the condition. Haematological study did not reveal any significant changes. The faecal sample examination did not reveal presence of any parasitic ova. Blood examination for presence of any blood protozoan parasite was also negative. The animal showed staggering gait with prolonged sleep at times. She was striking against the wire net enclosure during her movements. On close observation no abnormality on eyelid movement, eyeballs or presence of eye worms was detected. On 19 August 2003 it was decided to take radiograph of her skull. The leopard was completely blind so x-ray was taken without tranquilization. One side door of the squeeze cage was fully opened and the x-ray machine was kept very close to the skull while taking radiograph in lateral and antero-postero views (Image 1^o). The lateral radiograph of skull revealed hypertrophy of orbital plexus manifested by decreased density. There was increased vascularization of the orbit with radiodense cornea. The thickened cribriform plate was also marked. The frontal and nasal sinuses were clear (Image 2^o). The animal died the next day on 20 August 2003. Post-mortem examination revealed congested lungs with frothy exudates in the bronchioles and bronchi suggesting it to be pneumonia. No gross or histological changes could be detected in the brain or eye. Death in this case was attributed to respiratory distress produced by pneumonia.

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^o See Images 1-2 in the web supplement at www.zoosprint.org



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