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Characterization of two wood inhabiting macrofungal species *(Coriolopsis byrsina* and *Flavodon flavus)* from dry zone forest reserves in Sri Lanka

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The macrofungal species, *Coriolopsis byrsina* and *Flavodon flavus* are commonly found in the dry zone of Sri Lanka. Both species cause wood decaying and can be found on pieces of wood and dying branches lying on the forest floor.These two species were collected separately from IFS Sam Popham arboretum, Dambulla, Sigiriya wilderness, national forest reserves of Minneriya and Kaudulla. Specimens were analyzed macromorphologically (shape, colour, hymenial surface) and micromorphologically (hyphal system, presence/absence and measurements of sterile structures and basidiospores). Identity was confirmed by sequencing the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) region in the nuclear ribosomal repeat unit, using the primers ITS1F and ITS4B. Even though these species werepreviously reported from Sri Lanka, microscopic and genomic characteristics of these species have not been described and reported to date.

Basidiome of *Coriolopsis byrsina* is annual, effuse reflexed, coriaceous with a snuff brown to umber, tomentose abhymenial surface. The hymenial surface vinaceous buff to clay buff in colour and pores are angular. Hyphal system is trimitic while basidia are cylindrical. Basidiospores are hyaline, thin walled, smooth, inamyloid, ellipsoid to sub cylindrical. The resultant sequence showed the highest similarity with, *Coriolopsis byrsina* voucher Cui6556, reported from China. Basidiome of *Flavodon flavus* is also annual, effuse reflexed, coriaceous. However abhymenial surface is straw to sulfur yellow with concentric zones with an entire margin. Hymenial surface is first poroid and soon becoming hydnoid, irregular toothed like which are acute, smooth, bright sulfur yellow in colour. Hyphal system is dimitic. Cystidia present and basidia are spherical to barrel shaped. Basidiospores are hyaline, thin walled, smooth, inamyloid, broadly ellipsoid. The resultant sequence showed the highest similarity with, *Flavodon flavus* isolate 10219, reported from Finland.

Keywords: Basidiome, *Coriolopsis, Flavodon,* macrofungal species

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