Licea metallica, a new myxomycete from Laos

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With 1 figure

Abstract: A new sessile species of myxomycete in the genus Licea is described and illustrated. This new species (Licea metallica) appeared in moist chamber cultures on samples of bark collected from two different unidentified trees in Laos. It differs from all other species in the genus in having subglobose iridescent sporocarps with both a pale apical disc of refuse material and a cylindrical mound of refuse material at the base. The spores are reddish brown, totally smooth and characterized by a spore wall with a thinner area that takes up almost half the spore diameter. Micrographs of these and other relevant features of the new species are presented.

Key words: eumycetozoa, Liceales, Southeast Asia, taxonomy, tropical rainforests.

Introduction

The genus Licea (order Liceales) was described at the end of the eighteenth century by Schrader (1797) and now encompasses more than 70 species from throughout world (Lado 2005–2016). The genus is defined primarily by the absence of a capillitium in the mature sporocarp and usually the presence of a protoplasmium. It is probably polyphyletic (Gilert 1994). In a taxonomic study of the stipitate members of the genus, Wrigley de Basanta & Lado (2005) used a number of other characters to distinguish among species in the genus. These included the type of dehiscence of the peridium, the ornamentation of the peridium and the details of the spore ornamentation as observed by scanning electron microscopy (SEM).