

RESEARCH PAPER

Bridgeoporus kanadii, a new colossal species of *Bridgeoporus* (Basidiomycota, Fungi) from Arunachal Pradesh, India

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The hidden realm of fungi in India's biodiversity hotspots continues to yield fascinating discoveries. Arunachal Pradesh, a treasure trove of natural wonders, has recently surprised scientists with the unearthing of a giant, unique wood-decaying species of macrofungi. But the intrigue does not stop with scientists! To spark curiosity and interest for mycology among the common people, reference specimens of this giant fungus will be showcased at the Industrial Section Indian Museum (ISIM), Kolkata. This species is described in the present article with morphology and molecular phylogeny. This new species is also the initial generic record of the macrofungal genus *Bridgeoporus* from India.

Keywords: *Bridgeoporus*, macrofungi, molecular phylogeny, morphology, taxonomy.

ing species in this genus, *Bridgeoporus nobilissimus* (W.B. Cooke) T.J. Volk, Burds. and Ammirati, and *Bridgeoporus sinensis* (X.L. Zeng) F. Wu, Jia J. Chen and Y.C. Dai (<http://www.mycobank.org/www.mycobank.org> and www.indexfungorm.org), morphologically nor nested phylogenetically within the clade of both taxa.

The specimens are characterised by having medium to massive size, noticeable, single to imbricate basidiomata with an uneven glabrous pilear surface that cracks on drying. Additionally, acute to obtuse recurved, sterile margin and cracked hymenophore with entire, round to angular pores, are the notable macroscopic features. In the vertical section of the basidiomata, stratose tubes and context are also characteristic. The specimen is proposed herein as *Bridgeoporus kanadii* sp. nov. Detailed macro- and micro-morphological descriptions and illustrations are provided. This finding is also supported by the molecular phylogenetic estimation based on combined (internal transcribed spacer (ITS) and 28S) sequence data. The present article highlights the finding of the genus *Bridgeoporus* in India.