

Outlineoffungi.org – Note 1318 *Ustilagosporites*

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Ustilagosporites V.D. Kapgate ex R.K. Saxena, V.D. Kapgate & P.M. Kirk

Ustilagosporites is a monotypic fossil genus (Type: *U. mundkurii* V.D. Kapgate ex R.K. Saxena et al. 2023). It was discovered by Kapgate (2016) from Intertrappean Beds (Early Tertiary) in India. Specimens of this fossil basidiomycetous species were found in a petrified chert piece. The fungal spore balls are oval and consist of a few chlamydospores. Chlamydospores are sessile, uninucleate, unicellular, and globose. Also, chlamydospores are enclosed within spore balls that consist of two size categories: large spores and small spores grouped, without stalk or conidiophores. The exospores are thick with spiny ornamentation, and the endospore is thin. The parasitic fungus is intercellular, with fungal spore balls irregularly distributed in the infected parts of the host tissue. The host tissue looks like an inflorescence axis with short lobes of branches. The tissue is sufficiently thick, but the cells are completely disorganized by the parasite-formed pseudoparenchyma, and are pale yellow. The spore balls are buried in the host tissue and covered by a sterile sheath or pseudomembrane. Sterile hyphae or mycelium are not seen inside the intercellular spaces of the host tissue. The nucleus is prominent in each spore. *Ustilagosporites* was not validly published by Kapgate (2016) because the species name indicating its type was not validly published (Turland et al. 2018, Art. F.5.1). Saxena et al. (2023) validated the name of the genus and its type species by providing the missing Registration Identifier, which is mandatory for the valid publication of a fungal taxon. The name of the genus indicates its similarity with *Ustilago* (*Ustilaginales*, *Ustilaginaceae*).

References

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