

1. Describe the systematic position, occurrence, structure and reproduction in PEZIZA?

3-1 Systematic Position →

Class - Ascomycetes ✓

Sub class - Euroscymycetes

Order - Pezizales ✓

Family - Pezizaceae ✓

Genus - Peziza ✓

Species - Vesiculosa ✓

Occurrence & structure of Thallus → It is a saprophytic fungi, which frequently grows on dung, rotting wood, rich humus of forest soil and on the leaves of grass. Some species of this genus grow on burnt wood. It is always septed, branched, hyaline with reserve food material like glycogen and oil drop. Cell wall is made up of chitin and the common species of India is *Peziza vesiculosa*. According to Bultex and Bisby (1958) 50 species have been reported so far, out of the 18 species found in India. *Peziza vesiculosa* is well developed perennial thallus which consists a dense network of hyphae. The hyphae are branched, septate, uninucleate and some vacuole are also developed within the substratum. They form a complete structure to extract nourishment from the substratum. So they are heterotrophic. Some fruiting bodies are also found above the ground, which is known as Apothecia. The presence of apothecia above the substratum is recognized by the cup shaped whitish and brownish in colour. To see the apothecia we recognize *Peziza* species on the field.

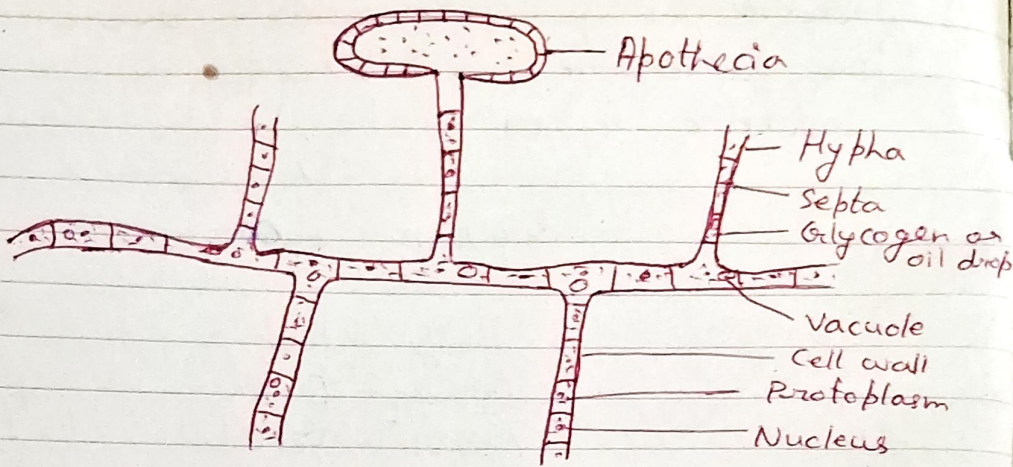
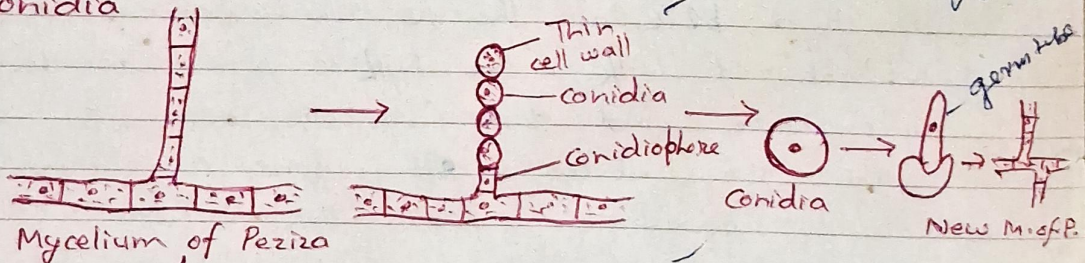


Fig - Mycelium of Peziza

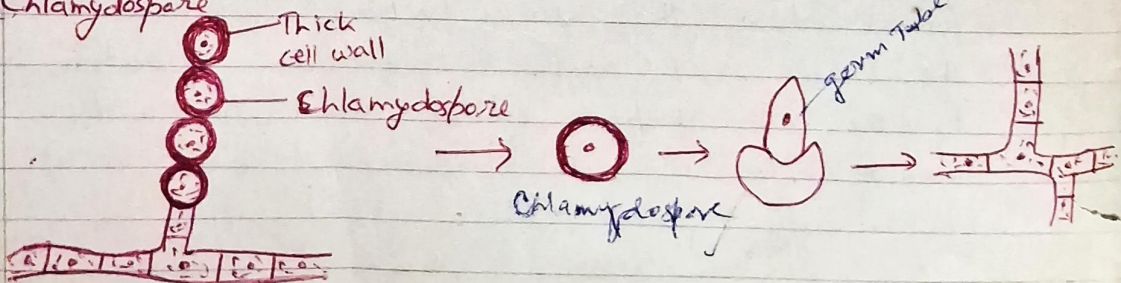
Reproduction →

1. Asexual Reproduction → It takes place by the formation of conidia or chlamydospores in favourable condition. The vegetative part of mycelium grows above the growing point at it starts constriction and forms beaded cells. Each beaded cell is known as conidia and the mycelium where conidia are formed is known as conidiophore. After maturity conidia get detached from the mycelium and they lay down on the ground. After returning favourable

Conidia



Chlamydospore



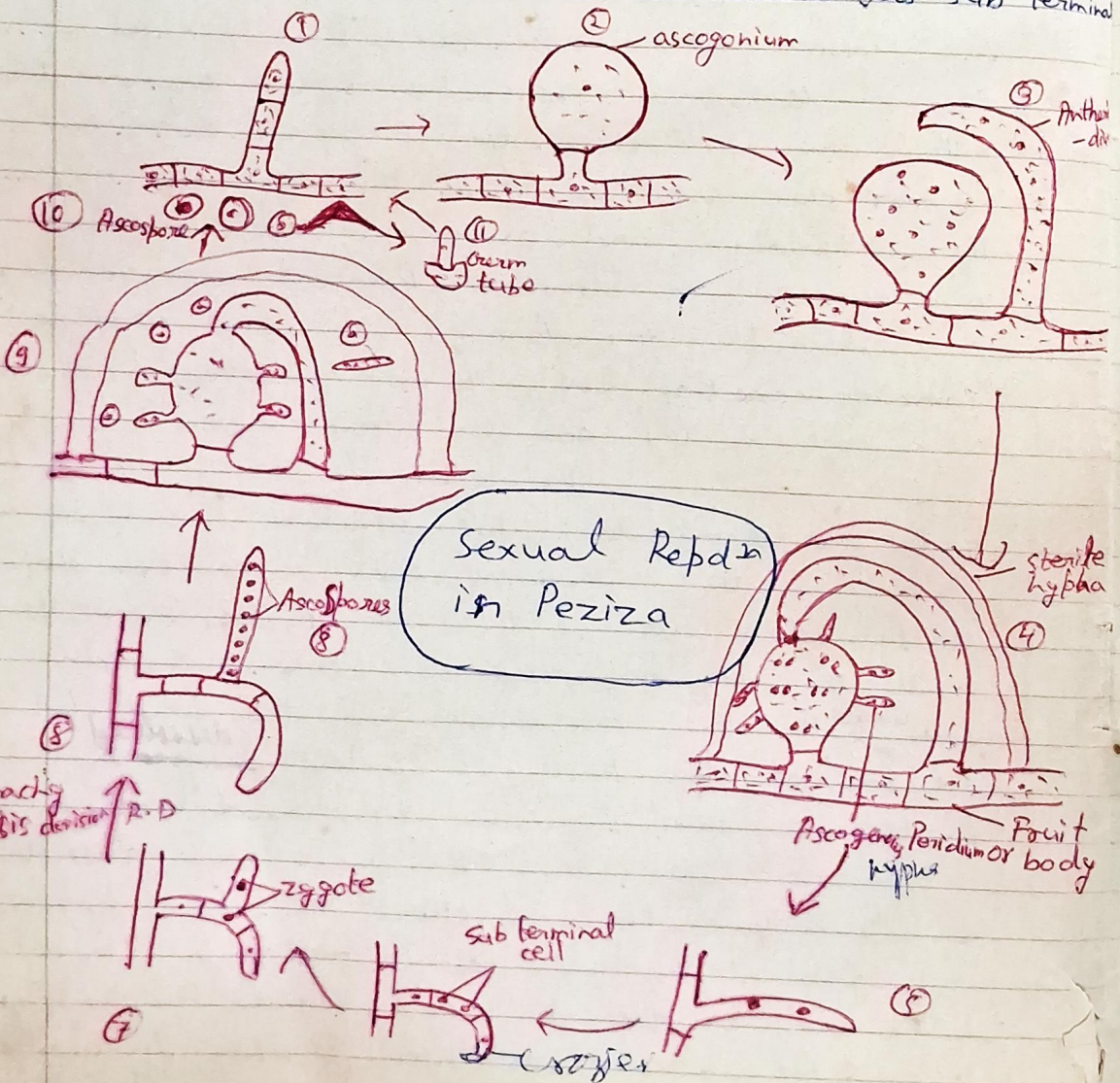
condition each conidia germinate and forms a germ tube. And after some time each germ tube forms a new mycelium of *Peziza*. In *P. vesiculosa*, *P. repens* and *P. confluence* forms chlamydospores. Which are like conidia and each chlamydospores under favourable condition germinate and forms the thallus of *Peziza*.

2: Sexual Reproduction → There is complete absence of sex organ of *Peziza*.

Hence the sexuality may be define as the act of fusion between the two nuclei (+) strain and (-) strain followed by meiotic division. But according to Debarry and Tulsane (1808) discovered the sexual rep^d in *Peziza confluence*. here the sexual organs like antheridium and ascogonium arises unicellular but multinucleate close together from the ascending hyphae. The antheridium and ascogonium are unicellular but multinucleate in structure. Dikaryotic ascogenous hyphae is responsible for forming asci and ascospore. In somatogamiae they simply forms a dikaryon cell which occurs between (+) and (-) strain nuclei.

The terminal portion of a hypha swells and forms vesicle like structure known as ascogonia and the antheridia arises as a club shaped structure from one of the cell of the same branch beneath the ascogonia. After some time antheridial tip ^{unites} with the ascogonium and the wall between the two at the point of contact ^{dissolved} so that a passage is formed for the transfer of male nuclei in the ascogonium. Lastly the male nuclei pass through the trichogyne like structure to the ascogonium and fuse with the female nuclei. It is not known that whether the male and female nuclei fuse or they simple remain associated together. In any case

they divide in pairs. And in this time many sterile hyphae grow around them and form a fruit body known as peridium. At the same time the ascogonium gives rise to a number of outgrowths known as ascogenous hyphae. In each ascogenous hypha a pair of nuclei (Dikaryotic) enters from the ascogonium. This ascogenous hyphae undergoes many septation and each septa contain a pair of nuclei and each septa finally these ascogenous hyphae which contain a pair of nuclei forms a hook like structure which is known as crozier. In crozier four cells are formed through mitotic cell division of which middle two cells are known as sub terminal



cells - which later on forms the ascus mother cell. The subterminal cell after some time fuse and forms zygote cell and remaining two cell of crozier degenerate. Zygote takes two reduction cell division which forms 8 haploid ascospores by the brachy meiosis method. After maturity each ascospore is oblong or round uninucleated and arranged in a straight single row. After maturity the fruit body burst by a small apical opening which lastly forms a apothecia. The diameter of a apothecia is 1 to several inches under damp condition. The ascospores are coming out through a terminal pore. And these are dispersed by wind and after returning suitable condition or in contact with the suitable substratum they germinate directly and forms a germ tube and lastly each germ tube produce new mycelium of Peziza. Again these mycelium produce white or buff coloured apothecia. So that we recognize Peziza usually on the ground.

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