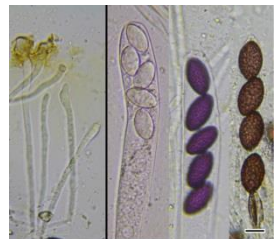


Ascobolus geophilus Seaver



Ascomata: 3-7 mm in diameter, discoid to pulvinate, scattered, on calcareous soil. Apothecia purplish-brown hymenial surface, initially smooth but on maturity the asci become apparent as small erumpant dark spots, lower surface paler in colour.

Microscopy: Asci 140-190 x 15-24 μm , cylindrical, IKI-ve, 8-spored uniseriate to weakly biseriata, pleurorhynchus, initially shorter than paraphyses but eventually longer and visible with a hand lens on the hymenial surface. Paraphyses cylindrical, rounded, with inflation at the tips (3.2-7.7 μm), septate, sometimes branched, with pale internal pigment but significant external yellow-brown glutinous deposits. Ascospores (19.5) 19.8-23.5 (24.6) x (10.5) 11.4-13.9 (14.3) μm , Q= (1.39) 1.63-1.83 (1.90), N = 40, Me= 21.6 x 12.6 μm , Qe= 1.72, ellipsoid, aseptate, without oil drops. Spores initially hyaline and smooth changing to an intermediate purple phase with rough surface, becoming larger on maturity with a purple-brown colour and with distinct reticulation due to plaque deposits.



Habitat: On calcareous soil (Nov-Dec).

Images: (Top) Ascomata on soil, (Bottom) paraphyses, spores at various stages, mature spores (scales 10 μm).

