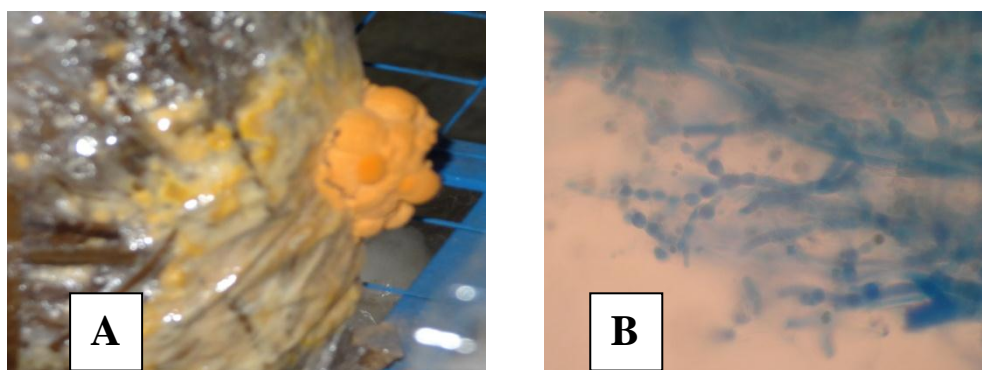


## *Papulospora byssina* - A New Mould Attacking Milky Mushroom Cultivation in Tripura

The weed fungus, *Papulospora byssina*, was earlier reported to cause brown plaster mould in both button and oyster mushrooms in northern parts of India. The fungus was not found in our studies in Tripura during the last 10 years. This year while cultivating milky mushroom (*Calocybe indica*, races CI-302 & CI-38 brought from DMR, Solan and the race CI-Tripura isolated earlier from a fruit body grown in Tripura), the fungus appears in the month of May on mushroom growing bags as cinnamon brown spherical many celled powdery sclerotia or bulbils. It also grows extensively as light brown patches of colonies on the substrate in side the bags and inhibits the growth of mushroom mycelium. Further, on casing soil it grows as fluffy yellowish brown coloured powdery bulbils or sclerotia. Under microscope, chains of spherical spores are found to be formed by separating the protoplasm inside the hyphae (Fig. 1). More than 60% mushroom growing bags are found as attacked by the mould fungus. As the mould is found to grow very fast under the climatic condition of this region and has the ability to attack oyster mushroom cultivation, so, the following control measures which we followed are suggested. In managing the weed fungus, we discarded the heavily infected beds and buried in the soil. For the rest of the mushroom growing bags where less attacks were occurred, we harvested the bulbils in a plastic bag and applied small amount of mancozeb powder 75EC on the infected portion and in side the plastic bag to kill the fungus. Later, the mushroom growing bags, walls and racks were spread thoroughly by 0.1% carbendazim solution. The floor was washed with 0.3% Mancozeb solution. By this way, the weed fungus was minimized considerably.



**Fig. 1. *Papulospora byssina* attacking milky mushroom in Tripura. A. Bulbills on bag; B. Spores and hyphae under microscope.**