that it is for the first time that corrensite type clay mineral is reported from any geological horizon in India.

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A NEW SPECIES OF *COPTOSPORA* FROM THE LOWER CRETACEOUS SUBSURFACE SEDIMENTS OF THE CAUVERY BASIN

B. S. VENKATACHALA

Institute of Petroleum Exploration, Oil & Natural Gas Commission, Dehra Dun

The present note deals with the naming of a characteristic spore met within the Lower Cretaceous sediments of Cauvery Basin. Rao & Venkatachala (1971) illustrated *Coptospora* sp. from Dalmiapuram black shale which is dated as Aptian-Lower Albian in age by Venkatachala (1972). In a recent study Venkatachala *et al.* (1972) recorded the occurrence of this species from the Karaikudi and Gandharvakottai wells. This species also occurs in the subsurface of Vridhachalam, i.e., Periyavadavadi, Rupanmarayanaliur and Puvanur shallow wells (Venkatachala, 1972). This fossil is associated with *Polypodiacceoisporites, Microcachryidites, Callialasporites, Classopollis, Podocarpidites, Triletes, Cocksonites, Sestrosporites, Pilosisporites, Polycingulatisporites, Aequitriradites* and other Lower Cretaceous genera. This species is named *Coptospora cauveriana* by the above authors; no formal diagnosis, however was provided by them.

Coptospora Dettmann, 1963

Type Species—Coptospora striata Dettmann, *1963*

Coptospora cauveriana sp. nov.

(Fig. 1, a–f)

Holotype—Rao and Venkatachala, 1971; pl. 3, fig. 18.

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Description—Microspore hilate, amb circular, 62-80μ exine up to 4μ thick, smooth. Distal appertural area following the same contour of the equatorial margin, 50-55μ, circular bordered with semilunar folds.

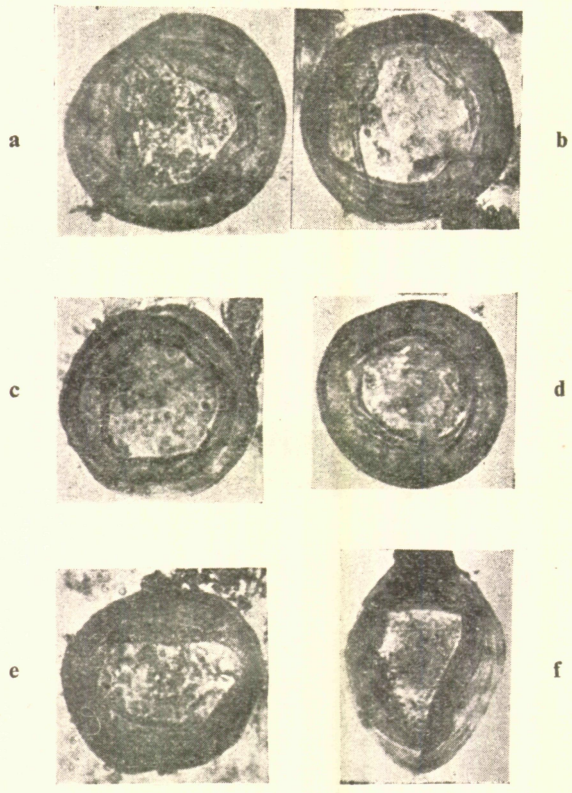

Figure 1. a-f. *Coptospora cauveriana* sp. nov.

Comparison—*Coptospora striata* has radially striated distal exine. *C. paradoxa* (Cookson & Dettmann) Dettmann, has fractured hexagonal areas on the distal side. *C. Kutchensis* Venkatachala, are larger in size, i.e., 80-100 μ and is distinguished by infrapunctate exine. Morphologically similar spores are known in Sphaerocarpaceae, Rieciaceae and Riellaceae (Dettmann, *l.c.*).

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