PREFACE

Microfungi colonising aboveground parts of a variety of plants growing under terrestrial conditions have been studied throughout the world and the accumulating information reviewed from time to time. However, such studies on plants of aquatic or semi-aquatic habitats are only very few and the factors which might govern the colonisation of such substrates by fungi are only poorly understood. This warrants an immediate attention of microbial ecologists particularly in tropical parts of the world. The present investigation on microfungi associated with a marshy plant in a tropical country like India characterised with marked seasonal fluctuations and temperature extremes was undertaken with the attempt to contribute to our existing knowledge in this field of microbial ecology.

The present investigation was carried out for a period of two years, August 1975 to August 1977, selecting a sedge, *Scirpus tuberosus* Desf, growing in shallow ponds during rainy season. Microfungi associated with plants have been investigated in detail seeking possible correlations between the nature of fungal distribution and various physico-chemical characteristics of the substrates as well as the atmospheric and habitat conditions prevailing in the region. The data obtained during this study and embodied in the thesis are the original piece of research pursued by the author.

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