

## Diversity of the genus *Entoloma* in Kerala State, India

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**Purpose:** *Entoloma* P. Kummer (Entolomataceae, Agaricales, Basidiomycota) represents one of the larger genera of Agaricales with more than 1500 species distributed worldwide. *Entoloma* species are characterized by a pinkish spore print and angular basidiospores. An overview of the diversity of *Entoloma* in Kerala State, India is presented here.

**Methods:** Conventional morphology-based techniques were used for the floristic study. In addition, the ITS and LSU sequences obtained from some species were utilized in BLAST searches.

**Results:** Our study revealed a total of sixty-seven species of *Entoloma* belonging to the following nine subgenera: *Cyanula* (thirty-three species), *Alboleptonia* (ten species), *Pouzarella* (eight species), *Nolanea* (six species), *Entoloma* (four species), *Inocephalus* and *Leptonia* (two species each), and *Claudopus* and *Omphaliopsis* (one species each).

**Conclusions:** The species of the subgenus *Cyanula* were found to outnumber all other groups. The most widely distributed *Entoloma* species in Kerala also belongs to the subgenus *Cyanula* (*Entoloma niranjanum*). The most remarkable outcome of the present study is the discovery that about 61% (forty-one out of the sixty-seven) of the *Entoloma* species collected and studied during this study are new to science. Several species exhibited a very restricted distribution. Another feature observed during this study is the low number of fruiting bodies of any species observed in any one location at any time.