

## A TAPHRINA ON FERNS IN SCOTLAND

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Five species of *Taphrina* are known to attack ferns in Europe, all on hosts native to the British Isles, but none of them has hitherto been recorded from this country. In 1946 the writer collected *T. athyrii* Siem. in Wester Ross, but the observation remained unpublished and was hence unknown to Mr. Henderson when he prepared his welcome revision of the genus *Taphrina* in Scotland (Notes R.B.G. Edinb. xxi, 165-180 : 1954). The following note will serve, therefore, as a supplement to his paper.

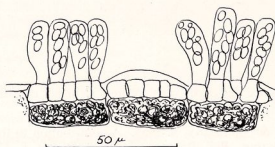


FIG. 1. *Taphrina athyrii* on *Athyrium filix-femina*, Applecross.  
Section of epidermis showing subcuticular mycelium.

*Taphrina athyrii* Siemaszko in Archiwum Nauk Biologicznych, Warsaw, i, pt. 14, p. 17 (1923).

Asci amphigenous, subclavate, rounded or truncate at the apex,  $20-30 \times 7-8 \mu$ , with a stalk cell  $5-9 \times 5-7 \mu$ ; ascospores elliptical,  $3-6 \times 2-3 \mu$ , sometimes budding in the ascus; mycelium subcuticular.

Causing small, somewhat angular, brown, unthickened spots, covered at maturity by a whitish bloom of asci, on leaves of *Athyrium filix-femina* Roth. The spots may be so abundant as to cause considerable deformation of the frond.

DISTRIBUTION. On *Athyrium filix-femina*: West Ross; lower end of larch wood behind the hotel, Applecross, Sept. 1946, R. W. G. Dennis.

The asci of this collection are larger than those measured by Mix (Kansas Univ. Sc. Bull. xxxiii, 1-167 : 1949), who found them  $13-17 \times 5.5-10 \mu$ . This variation in length may be held to support his suggestion that *T. athyrii* is scarcely separable morphologically from *T. hiratsukae* Nishida, a species already known on *Onoclea*, *Pteritis* and *Thelypteris*. In addition to the type locality, Pschu in the Caucasus, *T. athyrii* is known to occur at several stations in Norway.