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Microcyclospora and *Microcyclosporella*: novel genera accommodating epiphytic fungi causing sooty blotch on apple

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Abstract



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Suggestions

Recent studies have found a wide range of ascomycetes to be associated with sooty blotch and flyspeck (SBFS) blemishes on the surfaces of pomaceous fruits, specifically apples. Based on collections of such fungi from apple orchards in Germany and Slovenia we introduce two novel genera according to analyses of morphological characters and nuclear ribosomal DNA sequences (large subunit and internal transcribed spacer regions). *Microcyclosporella* is represented by a single species, *M. mali*, and is presently known from Germany and Slovenia. *Microcyclosporella* is *Pseudocercospora*-like in morphology, but genetically and morphologically distinct from *Pseudocercospora* s.str., for which an epitype is designated based on a fresh collection of *P. bakeri* from Laos. Furthermore, *Pseudocercospora* is shown to be paraphyletic within the *Capnodiales*. *Microcyclospora* gen. nov. is *Pseudocercospora*-like in morphology, but is genetically and morphologically distinct from *Pseudocercospora* s.str., which is based on *P. vitis*. Three species, *Microcyclospora malicola*, *M. pomicola* (both collected in Germany), and *M. tardicrescens* (collected in Slovenia) are described. Finally, a new species of *Devriesia*, *D. pseudoamericana*, is described from pome fruit surfaces collected in Germany. *Devriesia* is shown to be paraphyletic, and to represent several lineages of which only *Devriesia* s.str. is thermotolerant. Further collections are required, however, before the latter generic complex can be resolved.

Keywords: DEVRIESIA; HYPHOMYCETES; MALUS; MICROFUNGI; PSEUDOCERCOSPORA; PSEUDOCERCOSPORELLA; SBFS; TAXONOMY

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