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Calonectria spp. causing leaf spot, crown and root rot of ornamental plants in Tunisia

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Suggestions

Calonectria spp. are important pathogens of ornamental plants in nurseries, especially in the Northern Hemisphere. They are commonly associated with a wide range of disease symptoms of roots, leaves and shoots. During a recent survey in Tunisia, a number of *Calonectria* spp. were isolated from tissues of ornamental plants showing symptoms of leaf spot, crown and root rot. The aim of this study was to identify these *Calonectria* spp. using morphological and DNA sequence comparisons. Two previously undescribed *Calonectria* spp., *C. pseudomexicana* sp. nov. and *C. tunisiana* sp. nov., were recognised. *Calonectria mexicana* and *C. polizzi* are newly reported for the African continent. Pathogenicity tests with all four *Calonectria* spp. showed that they are able to cause disease on seedlings of *Callistemon* spp., *Dodonaea viscosa*, *Metrosideros* spp. and *Myrtus communis*.

Keywords: CALONECTRIA; CROWN AND ROOT ROT; DNA PHYLOGENY; LEAF SPOT; PATHOGENICITY; SYSTEMATICS**Document Type:** Research Article

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