

Novel fungal taxa from the arid Middle East introduced prior to the year 1940. I - Non lichenized Ascomycetes

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Abstract – The present note is the first of a series surveying novel fungal taxa named before 1940 and with original localities in the arid Middle East region. The survey will consider members of the well represented taxonomic groups, i.e. non lichenized Ascomycetes, anamorphic fungi, Homo- and Hetero- Basidiomycetes. It is in line with published contributions on similar novelties being introduced in the period 1940-2000. These novelties were, however, dealt with following the nature of their original substrate, whether of telluric or of organic origin. Fortythree taxa were named from 1871 to 1940. *Melogramma cylindrosporium* from Syria was the first recorded fungus. As expected the rate of introduction was slow before 1900: 18.7% of the whole group, in comparison to the average rate/decade in the next forty years: 20.3%. But almost all post-1900 taxa were named in the years 1910-1930. Most taxa (37) were described as species, and fewer were considered varieties of known species; no new genera were proposed. Their protologues are due to a few mycologists active in France, Germany and Italy on material collected by European resident or travellers botanists. One third of the novel taxa was reported from Libya by A. Trotter, P.A. Saccardo and R. Parisi in a relatively short period from 1912-1928. Less than a third comes from the Nile Valley; it stems from efforts made by I. Reichert (1921) upon examination of Egyptian specimens housed at Berlin Botanical Herbarium. Protologues of most remaining taxa are due to F. Bubák in 1914; these relate to material collected by the 1910 Handel-Mazzetti expedition to the Orient. All the new organisms were associated with material of plant origin except *Penicillium egyptiacum*, described in 1933 from a culture isolated from soil. *Hypomyces galericola* and *Nectria muscicola* are unusual in being fungicolous or muscicolous. Updating of the relevant taxonomic positions stress 21 genera are represented. Three genera comprise about half of the group. Twelve taxa are in *Pleospora sensu lato*: in the past its generic limits had been widely conceived encompassing several other old genera presently undergoing taxonomic reconsideration. The small mycorrhizal genus *Terfezia* has five taxa from Egypt, Irak, Saudi Arabia and Syria. But the relatively large genus *Mycosphaerella* has only four units from Egypt, Libya and Irak. Remaining taxa either belong to *Didymosphaeria*, *Glonium*, *Leptosphaeria* and *Rosellinia* (2 taxa each) or to the 13 genera each having a single unit. The combinations *Guignardia aegyptiaca* (Müll. Arg.) Reichert and *Amphisphaeria palmarum* (Maffei) El-Buni & S.S. Rattan are not related to any mideastern new ascomycete. The two major pre-1940 regional reports by Bubák (1914) and Reichert (1921) also convey data on 18 known species simply observed in Egypt (16 taxa) and/or in Irak (4 taxa). Bubák's report provides in addition protologues of 12 new ascomycetes from Turkey, which we do not consider to be in the Middle East. The taxonomic positions of the new additions and of the Turkish novelties were also critically updated. These bring to 75 the total number of taxa considered. A large proportion of the pre-1940 novelties (81.3%) was introduced in the two decades 1910-1930. This activity was apparently not slackened by the first World War. The Syrian and Iraki names appeared in 1914, and the Libyan ones between 1912 and 1917. Egyptian taxa were proposed by Reichert in 1921 on material collected before 1914. The first World War apparently brought German interest in the biodiversity of the Middle East to an end. In the lapse between the two World Wars no new species from the Asian part of the region was

described. Interest in the local fungi was then confined to Egypt with the appearance of native mycologists. Finally, a scrutiny of taxonomic information on ascomycetes named before World War II reveals several are still only known by their original short descriptions and/or their collecting sites. A regional survey of this major group of fungi needs to be resumed.

Fungi / Ascomycetes / Novel Taxa / Taxonomy / Biodiversity / Middle East / Egypt / Irak / Libya / Saudi Arabia / Syria / Turkey / Yemen

Résumé – La présente note est la première d'une série consacrée aux champignons inédits pour la Science ayant des localités d'origine au Moyen-Orient et des protologues publiés avant l'année 1940. Cette série va traiter, de façon successive, les groupements taxonomiques majeurs bien représentés au sein de ces champignons inédits, i.e. Ascomycètes non lichénisants, champignons anamorphiques et les sous-ensembles Homo- et Hetero- Basidiomycètes. C'est le volet complémentaire de la série précédente, consacrée aux inédits du même ordre mais introduits entre les années 1940 à 2000. Ces derniers furent cependant traités après un regroupement fondé plutôt sur la nature de leur substrat original de développement, d'origine organique ou tellurique. Quarante trois Ascomycètes non lichénisants furent nommés de 1871 à 1940. *Melogramma cylindrosporium* de Syrie est le premier élément. Comme attendu le taux d'introduction va s'avérer faible avant 1900 : 18.7 % du groupe, en comparaison à sa valeur pendant les quarante années suivantes : 20.3 %/décade ; la plupart des introductions post-1900 vont cependant se réaliser au cours de la période de 1910 à 1930. Ces taxa inédits furent introduits plutôt au niveau de l'espèce (37) qu'au rang de variété ou de forme ; de plus, aucun genre nouveau ne leur fut établi. Les protologues respectifs sont l'œuvre de mycologues actifs en Allemagne, France et Italie. Ils furent établis d'après des spécimens collectés par des botanistes Européens, explorateurs ou résidents au Moyen-Orient. Un tiers de ces inédits fut découvert en Libye par A. Trotter, P.A. Saccardo et R. Parisi ; leurs descriptions seront publiées sur une période assez courte allant de 1912 à 1928. Moins d'un tiers est également originaire de la vallée du Nil ; c'est le résultat de l'examen par I. Reichert (1921) des spécimens égyptiens présents à l'Herbier Botanique de Berlin. Les inédits restants ont, pour la plupart, des protologues établis en 1914 par F. Bubák sur la base de collections provenant de l'expédition de 1910 mené par Handel-Mazzetti en Orient. La croissance de ces taxons inédits s'est, dans l'ensemble, réalisée sur des substrats d'origine végétale : bois, tiges, feuilles, etc. ; seul *Penicillium egyptiacum* a été établi en 1933 sur la base d'une culture vivante isolée de sol. *Hypomyces galericola* et *Nectria muscicola* se singularisent par leurs caractères fongicole ou muscicole. Une mise à jour des positions taxonomiques révèle une affiliation limitée à 21 genres. Trois de ces derniers rassemblent, à eux seuls, presque la moitié des taxons inédits. *Pleospora sensu lato* en affiche douze ; dans le passé ses limites génériques englobaient des genres anciens actuellement en pleine ré-évaluation taxonomique. Le petit genre mycorrhizien *Terfezia* comporte cinq unités collectées en Arabie Saoudite, Egypte, Irak et Syrie. Mais au genre relativement important *Mycosphaerella*, s'y rattachent seulement quatre espèces trouvées en Egypte, Libye et Irak. Les taxons inédits restants relèvent des genres *Didymosphaeria*, *Glonium*, *Leptosphaeria* et *Rosellinia* (2 taxons chacun) ou de l'un des 13 autres genres représenté chacun par une seule espèce. Les deux combinaisons *Guignardia aegyptiaca* (Müll. Arg.) Reichert et *Amphisphaeria palmarum* (Maffei) El-Buni & S.S. Rattan ne s'avèrent pas liées à des taxons inédits du Moyen-Orient. Les études marquantes de Bubák (1914) et de Reichert (1921) sur les champignons de cette région rapportent aussi des données sur 18 ascomycètes connus : ils furent observés seulement en Egypte (16) et/ou en Irak (4). Le texte de Bubák comporte en outre, les protologues de douze ascomycètes inédits mais originaires de Turquie, un pays non rattaché au Moyen-Orient dans la présente étude. Les positions taxonomiques des 18 ascomycètes connus et des inédits turques furent également mises à jour de façon critique. Ces additifs portent à 75 le total d'ascomycètes considérés dans cette première contribution.

Un nombre important des taxons inédits anciens (81.3 %) fut introduit sur une courte période allant de 1910 à 1930. Apparemment la Première Guerre mondiale ne semble avoir exercé un impact négatif sur leurs définitions : les éléments Syriens et Irakiens furent en effet nommés en 1914 par Bubák ; la plupart des espèces de Libye le seront entre 1912 et 1917 ; les taxons égyptiens de Reichert (1921) sont basés sur du matériel collecté avant 1914. Mais cet événement majeur est probablement à l'origine de la fin de l'intérêt porté par les Allemands à la Biodiversité du Moyen-Orient. De 1920 à 1940, aucun ascomycète originant de la partie asiatique de la région ne sera nommé ; l'étude de ses champignons sera alors confinée à la seule Egypte avec l'apparition de spécialistes locaux. Enfin, les données écologiques disponibles sur ces ascomycètes du Moyen-Orient révèle que la plupart restent connus mais seulement par des diagnoses originelles peu explicites et/ou par les localités initiales de récoltes. L'étude de cet ensemble taxonomique majeure mérite donc un soutien particulier dans les futurs programmes de recherches sur la Biodiversité des Champignons au Moyen-Orient.

Champignons / Ascomycètes / Taxon inédit pour la Science / Taxonomie / Biodiversité / Moyen-Orient / Arabie Saoudite / Egypte / Irak / Libye / Syrie / Turquie / Yémen

INTRODUCTION

The serious scientific study of the Middle East mycobiota can be traced back to 1813, when Alire Raffenu Delile provided in his “Flore d’Egypte avec explication des planches”, descriptions of eleven taxa. Besides the famous gasteromycete *Phallus roseus* A.R. Delile [now *Itajayha rosea* (A.R. Delile) Ed. Fisher], ten lichenized fungi were considered, of which only two were already known. Since then and up to the first World War, knowledge of this regional mycoflora stemmed mainly from collections made by European botanists during their exploratory travels in the area. Original specimens of fungi collected were made available to mycologists working mainly in Germany, France and Italy (Sutton, 1994).

Interest by the author in the fungi of this arid zone led to the drafting of papers focusing on novel taxa introduced during the last 60 years of the 20th century. The first relevant report dealt with organisms described from living cultures isolated from soil (Mouchacca, 1995). The second considered organisms mostly developing on non-soil substrata (Mouchacca, 1999). Information on about 50 additional species omitted in the two previous notes was later on documented by Mouchacca (2004). A general check-list of this particular regional group, comprising about 250 taxa was then prepared (Mouchacca, 2005). Their basic descriptive taxonomic references were annotated in a separate note (Mouchacca, 2003).

The second part of this regional survey focusses on novel taxa described prior to 1940. These taxa will be treated in a series of papers dealing with the major Classes (*sensu* Kirk *et al.*, 2001). The first will consider the relatively small group of non lichenized Ascomycetes, of which *Melogramma cylindrosporum* (Rabenhorst, 1871) appears to be oldest described member. This fungus developed on a decaying branch of a probably *Prunus* tree collected by the German botanist H.C. Haussknecht in Syria during his second trip to the Orient in the years 1866-69.

Prior to the 20th century only a few *Terfezia* species and the still undocumented *Blitridium punctum* (Patouillard, 1895) had apparently been

described. The relevant original *Terfezia* specimens were collected in Egypt and in present-day Irak, Saudi Arabia and Syria: five species and one variety were named by A. Chatin (1891, 1892) and N. Patouillard (1894). According to Alsheikh and Trappe (1983) the nomenclatural histories of early species of the genera *Terfezia* and *Tirmania* are confused “in that both Chatin and Patouillard received collections at about the same time but from different sources, examined each other’s materials, rushed into prints in several different outlets each with a flurry of *nomina nuda* and concurrent descriptions, and thereafter disputed priority of their respective names”.

The early reported non-lichenized ascomycetes from this dry area were however gradually described in the first three decades of the 20th century. Taxa named by F. Bubák for Irak and Syria were based on collections from the Handel-Mazetti expedition in the area in 1910 (Bubák, 1914). Names established by I. Reichert for Egypt had authentic material dispatched to the Berlin Botanical Museum by German travellers in the Nile basin (Reichert, 1921). The protologues of Libyan species were drafted by Italian mycologists from collections made by A. Trotter and other Italian botanists commonly in Tripolitania (Parisi, 1928; Saccardo, 1913; Trotter, 1916).

Information treated in the present note gradually accumulated in the course of work relating to the mycology of the Middle East region. As the Index of Fungi started only in 1940, several documentary sources had to be consulted for names, new to science established prior to this date. It follows that, despite the extensive bibliographic search undertaken, omissions are to be expected in the list of names below.

LIST OF TREATED TAXA

Binomials of novel ascomycetes retrieved were first arranged alphabetically by generic epithets. An extensive search was then undertaken to update individual taxonomic positions according to present day information.

The names were then re-arranged following the alphabetic order of the original generic epithet (if no changes were recorded) or that of the latest taxonomically valid name. All names cited are in regular italics.

All binomials reported are specified with their full basic descriptive reference. For names published before 1920, the volume(s) of Saccardo’s *Sylloge Fungorum* are added after the heading literature. These are cited whenever the corresponding binomial could be traced following the general index of Reed and Farr (1993). Few names did not figure in this book.

The latest taxonomically valid name is sometimes associated with eventual references to later citations. For original binomials having undergone a taxonomic change, the name of the proposing author and the date of publication are then specified. All known intermediate synonyms are also specified either in details or by simple indication of their place of publication. A synthetic history of the fungus name is also reported in few cases. Finally, for names not reassessed since their proposal, information on the respective genera has been provided instead.

For each new taxon, information on the holotype is indicated, i.e. its present political State, name of the host or type of substrate, place and date of

collection and collector's name. No attempt has however been made to locate corresponding original materials in present major herbaria. Reichert's specimens are assumed to be in Berlin Botanisches Garten und Museum Berlin-Dahlem (B). Material examined by F. Bubák should be housed in the National Fungus Collections, Maryland, USA (BPI). The availability of the Libyan specimens was checked in the catalogue prepared by Gola (1930) for Saccardo's herbarium (PAD). Finally, Pfister's (1977) annotated index to fungi described by Patouillard was consulted for material kept at Farlow Herbarium (FH).

Fungal authors' names are reported following the recent electronic version of Kirk & Ansell "Authors of fungal Names" (2003). Names of Herbaria are cited following the Index Herbariorum (Holmgren *et al.*, 1990). The following abbreviations were also introduced in the text: ≡: basionym; =: synonym; H.: holotype; CBS: Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures.

– ***Blitridium punctum* Pat.** – Bulletin de la société mycologique de France 11: 87. 1895. XI: xxxix; XII: 54; XIV: 823. EGYPT. On bark of *Tamarix* sp., City of El-Arish, North Sinai, 1894 ?, leg. E. Sickenberger; H.: FH no. 5039.

Reichert (1921: 673) listed this discomycete under the name *Tryblidium punctum* Pat. The confusion in name citation stems from that *Blitridium* De Not. 1863 had been accepted as a later name of *Triblidium* Rebent. 1804 by Nannfeldt J.A. – Nova acta regia societatis scientiarum upsaliensis 4 (8): 2. 1932. A concomitant generic transfer of the species was, however, never published. Besides, *Tryblidium punctum* is not listed in Reed & Farr (1993: 820). Finally, *Tryblidium* Wall. 1833 is only an orthographic variant of *Triblidium* Rebent.

Sickenberger (1901) reported the collection on *Tamarix* in his note entitled "Contribution à la Flore d'Egypte". Reichert (1921) considered the discomycete as endemic for Egypt. The name *Blitridium punctum* has apparently not been cited since (El-Abyad 1997).

– ***Didymella culmigena* var. *cynodontis* Trott.** – Annales mycologici 10: 512. 1912. Not cited in Reed & Farr (1993: 219). LIBYA. On leaves of *Cynodon dactylon*, Ain (etym.: spring) Zara, Tripoli, Mar. 1912, leg. A. Trotter; H.: not in PAD.

Didymella culmigena Sacc. – Michelia 1 (4): 377. 1878, had undergone the following generic transfer at the time the variety *cynodontis* was introduced: *Cercidospora culmigena* (Sacc.) Kuntze – Revisio generum plantarum 3: 453. 1898. This taxonomic decision was not however accounted for by Trotter (1912). According to Corlett (1981), *Didymella* Sacc. 1880 had not yet been monographed.

– ***Didymosphaeria leptitana* Trott.** – Nuovo giornale botanico italiano, n.s. 23: 14. 1916. XXIV: 935. LIBYA. On senescent leaves of *Reaumuria vermiculata*, Wadi Ngasa near Khums, 8 May 1913, leg. A. Trotter; H.: PAD.

Aptroot (1995) recently re-examined the authentic material. However, no definite conclusion could be achieved about its status since in "this scanty type specimen only a coelomycete could be found".

– ***Didymosphaeria scrophulariae* Parisi** – Bulletino dell'orto botanico della regia universita di Napoli 9: 58. 1927, publ. 1928. LIBYA. On leaves of *Scrophularia canina*, Maatan Borghu (Shahat), near Cirene, 1922-25, leg. R. Cavara; H.: not in PAD.

Aptroot (1995) failed to locate authentic material of this ascomycete in Saccardo's Herbarium.

– ***Eupenicillium egyptiacum* (van Beyma) Stolk & Scott** – Persoonia 4: 401. 1967; Moubasher H. – Soil fungi of Qatar and other Arab countries: 202. 1993.

≡ *Penicillium egyptiacum* van Beyma – Zentralblatt für Bakteriologie, Parasitenkunde, Infektionskrankheiten und Hygiene, Abteilung 2, 88: 137. 1933; *nomen holomorphosum*. EGYPT. Isolated from sandy soil, Burg El-Arab, West of Alexandria City, Lower Egypt, by Y.S. Sabet, around 1932, and sent to J.F.H. van Beyma for examination; H.: CBS 244.32.

Anamorph: *Penicillium nilense* Pitt – The genus *Penicillium* and its teleomorphic states *Eupenicillium* and *Talaromyces*: 145. 1979.

Misapplied name: *Eupenicillium crustaceum* Ludwig – Lehrbuch der niederen Kryptogamen: 263. 1892; *sensu* Stolk & Samson – Studies in Mycology, Baarn 23: 28. 1983.

– ***Glonium guttulatum* Reichert** – Botanische Jahrbücher für Systematik 56: 673. 1921. XXVI: 207. EGYPT. On dry stems of *Atriplex* sp., Village of Abukir, East of Alexandria City, Oct. 1822/25, leg. C.G. Ehrenberg.

Glonium Mühlenb. 1813 awaits a modern revision (Kirk *et al.*, 2001).

– ***Glonium salsolae* Reichert** – Botanische Jahrbücher für Systematik 56: 672. 1921. XXVI: 208. EGYPT. On dry stems of *Salsola longifolia*, Village of Abukir, East of Alexandria City, Oct. 1822/25, leg. C.G. Ehrenberg.

– ***Guignardia alhagii* Bubák** – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 198. 1914. XXIV: 785. SYRIA. On twigs of *Alhagi camelorum*, at the limits between Mesopotamia and northern Arabia, on the left bank of the middle part of the river Euphrates, close to the Fortress of Der El-Sor, 200 m, 1 Apr. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 601 p. p.

The generic name *Guignardia* Viala & Ravaz 1892 with the type species *G. bidwellii* (Ellis) Viala & Ravaz, has been the subject of a conservation procedure introduced by D.L. Hawksworth & J.C. David (Taxon 38: 494-495. 1989). The relevant proposal no. 936 was subsequently recommended by the Committee for Fungi and Lichens (Gams, 1992). Nonetheless, the ca. about 40 congeneric species, some of which are important plant pathogens, still await re-evaluation (Kirk *et al.*, 2001).

– ***Hypomyces galericola* Henn.** – Hedwigia 41: 214. 1902. XVII: 805. EGYPT. Ascocarps developing on the upper surface of basidiocarps of *Galera rubiginosa* (Pers.) Sacc., collected in the summer house of Ch. Stamm at Cairo, 15 Apr. 1902, leg. G. Schweinfurth.

The respective status of known members of *Hypomyces* (Fr.) Tul. 1860 developing on Discomycetes, Boletes, Aphyllophorales and Agarics were reassessed by Rogerson & Samuels (1994). The taxonomic position of *Hypomyces galericola* was not then documented. Reichert (1921) regarded the ascomycete as an Egyptian component of the local mycoflora.

– ***Leptosphaeria berenicea* Sacc.** – Nuovo giornale botanico italiano, n.s. 24: 166. 1917. Name not cited in Reed & Farr (1993: 399). LIBYA. On withering stem of *Psoralea bituminosa* var. *plumosa*, Giok Kebir, Cyrenaica, Mar. 1916, leg. Rev. P.D. Vito Zanon; H.: not in PAD.

This specific epithet is missing from the nomenclator of the genus *Leptosphaeria* Ces. & De Not. 1863 by Crane & Shearer (1991). No modern descriptions of all known *Leptosphaeria* species have been established (Crane & Shearer, 1991).

– ***Leptosphaeria stipae* Trab.** – Etude sur l’Halfa, Alger: 48, tab. XVI. 1889 [non *Leptosphaeria stipae* Lobik – Materialy po floristicheskim i faunisticheskim obsledovaniyam Terskogo okverga (Data from investigations on the flora and fauna of the Ter region): 24. 1928; non *Leptosphaeria stipae-minor* Lacoste – Revue de Mycologie, Paris 22, Supplément Colonial 1: 13. 1957]. XXVI: 984.

= *Leptosphaeria pampaniniana* Sacc. – Bulletin de la société botanique italienne 22: 152. 1913; Saccardo P.A. – Annales mycologici 11: 566. 1913; synonymy *vide* Saccardo P.A. – *Sylloge fungorum* 24: 984. 1928. LIBYA. On decaying leaves of *Stipa tenacissima*, Ain Sharshara, Tarhuna, Mar. 1913, leg. R. Pampanini; H.: PAD.

– ***Melogramma cylindrosporium* Rabenh.** – Hedwigia 10 (2): 25. 1871. II: 146; XII: 428. SYRIA. On a decaying branch of probably a *Prunus* tree, in the vicinity of the City of Alep, 1868, leg. C. Haussknecht.

Saccardo P.A. – *Sylloge fungorum* II: 146. 1883, regarded the generic placement of this ascomycete as dubious. Laflamme (1975) emitted some doubts about the existence of any authentic material. Unless a fresh collection becomes available the precise identity of the fungus will remain undocumented.

– ***Mycosphaerella athamantae* (Parisi) Morelet** – Annales de la société des sciences naturelles et d’archéologie de Toulon et du Var 20: 105. 1968; Corlett M. – Mycologia Memoir 18: 42. 1991.

≡ *Sphaerella athamantae* Parisi – Bulletino dell’orto botanico della regia universita di Napoli 9 (1): 58. 1927, publ. 1928. Name not cited in Reed & Farr (1993: 736). LIBYA. On stem of *Athamanta della-cellae*, Wadi Derma, Apr. 1922, leg. R. Cavara; H.: not in PAD.

Sphaerella (Fr.) Rabenh. 1856 being a synonym of *Mycosphaerella* Johanson 1884 (Sivanesan, 1984) accounts for the generic transfer of the taxon. A modern description of the fungus awaits (Corlett, 1991, 1995).

– ***Mycosphaerella engleriana* Reichert** – Botanische Jahrbücher für Systematik 56: 670. 1921. XXVI: 338. EGYPT. On dry stems of *Noaea mucronata* and *Salsola longifolia*, Village of Abukir, East of Alexandria City, Oct. 1822/25, leg. C.G. Ehrenberg.

The appropriate generic position of this fungus awaits a revision of taxa ascribed to *Mycosphaerella* Johanson 1884 (Corlett, 1991, 1995).

– ***Mycosphaerella graminis* (Sacc.) Tomilin** – Novosti sistematiki nizshikh rastenii 1966: 172. 1966; Corlett M. – Mycologia Memoir 18: 125. 1991.

≡ *Sphaerella graminis* Sacc. – Bulletin de la société botanique italienne 22: 152. 1913; Saccardo P.A. – Annales mycologici 11: 566. 1913. XXIV: 868. LIBYA. On decaying leaves of *Stipa tenacissima*, Ras Maader, Wadi Tenzia, Tarhuma, 1 Apr. 1913, leg. R. Pampanini; H.: PAD.

There is no modern description of this *Mycosphaerella* species (Corlett, 1991, 1995).

– ***Mycosphaerella tassiana* (De Not.) Johanson** – Öfersigt af förhandlingar: Kongl. svenska vetenskaps-akademien 41(9): 167. 1884.

≡ *Sphaerella tassiana* De Not. – Sferiacei Italici 1: 87. 1863.

= *Sphaerella argyrophylli* Bubák – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 197. 1914. XXIV: 872; synonymy *vide* Arx J. A. von – Sydowia 3: 41. 1949. IRAK. On rachis leaves of *Astragalus argyrophylli*, close to the ruins of Gharra City, north-central part of Dschebel Abd El Asis, Mesopotamia, 500 m, 20 Jun. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 1732.

Von Arx (1949), in his revision of the genus *Mycosphaerella* Johanson 1884, proposed a fair number of synonyms – including the present Iraki name – to *M. tassiana*. The latter has recently been renamed *Davidiella tassiana* (De Not.) Crous & Braun (in Braun U., Crous P.W., Dugan F.M., Groenewald J.Z. & Hoog G.S. de – Mycological Progress 2: 8. 2003). The connection of this teleomorph to the anamorphic *Cladosporium herbarum* (Pers.:Fr.) Link, as reported by von Arx (1950) and Barr (1958), could again be confirmed by Schubert *et al.* (2007). The definitive status of *Sphaerella argyrophylli* requires re-examination of the relevant type material

– ***Nectria muscicola* Sacc.** – Annales mycologici 11: 416. 1913. XXIV: 663. LIBYA. On living leaves of *Barbula* species (*Musci*), at Mescia, Village of Tajoura, Tripoli, Mar. 1913, leg. A. Trotter; H.: PAD.

Dobbeller (1978) established a modern description of this ascomycete upon re-examination of the original material.

– ***Phyllachora ehrenbergii* Reichert** – Botanische Jahrbücher für Systematik 56: 668. 1921. XXVI: 266. EGYPT. Two collections are cited: On leaves of *Cyperus digitatus* ssp. *auricomus*, along an old irrigation canal, Village of Machsamah, 25 Apr. 1887, leg. P. Ascherson; on leaves of *Cyperus radiata*, City of Damietta, Lower Egypt, Apr. 1822/25, leg. C.G. Ehrenberg.

Despite several taxonomic contributions on the genus not all relevant species have been re-appraised (Kirk *et al.*, 2001).

– ***Pleosphaeria astragalina* Bubák** – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 196. 1914. XXIV: 1053. IRAK. On rachis leaves of *Astragalus rauwolfii*, at the borders between Mesopotamia and northern Arabia, between the cities of Meskene and Der El-Salam, in the middle region of the river Euphrates between Abu Herea and El-Hammam, 250-350 m, 27 Mar. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 457 p. p.

The genus *Pleosphaeria* Speg. 1881 has not been the subject of any modern general revision (Kirk *et al.*, 2001).

– ***Pleospora aegyptiaca* Reichert** – Botanische Jahrbücher für Systematik 56: 671. 1921. XXVI: 422. EGYPT. On dry stems of *Minuartia procumbens*, City of Alexandria, Nov. 1822/25, leg. C.G. Ehrenberg.

This species was not considered by Wehmeyer (1961) in his world monographic treatment of the genus *Pleospora* Rabenh. ex Ces. & De Not. 1863.

– ***Pleospora coluteicola* var. *trevoicola* (Speg.) Wehmeyer** – A world monograph of the genus *Pleospora* and its segregates: 127. 1961.

= ***Pleospora mesopotamica* Bubák** – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 201. 1914; synonymy *vide* Wehmeyer (1961: 127). IRAK. Two collections are cited: On old twigs of *Ephedra alba*, in the salt marshes of El-Chatunje, between the river Chabur and Dschebel Sindschar in the steppe, Mesopotamia, 400 m, 14 Jun. 1910, H.F. Handel-Mazzetti Expedition no. 1612 p. p.; same host, at the limits between Mesopotamia and northern Arabia, between Abukemal and Ramadi in the middle Euphrates region, in the desert between Ana and Haditha, 120-180 m, 7 Apr. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 768.

Re-examination by Wehmeyer (1961) of the collection on *Ephedra* from Mesopotamia [Wehmeyer 917, type], confirmed the similarity of the Iraki fungus with the variety *trevoicola* of *Pleospora coluteicola* Gonz. Frag.

– ***Pleospora gailloniae* Bubák** – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 200. 1914; Wehmeyer L.E. – A world monograph of the genus *Pleospora* and its

segregates: 302 & 322. 1961; *nomen dubium*, *vide* Wehmeyer (1961: 302 & 322). XXIV: 1036. IRAK. On old cortex of *Gaillonia olivieri*, between Kalaat (etym.: fortress) Schergat (Assor City) and Al-Hadra (Hatra), Mesopotamia, 250 m, 12 May 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 1100 p. p.

Wehmeyer (1961) excluded the species from the genus since the corresponding type material (obtained from the Vienna Herb.) represented “a mixture of two taxa not having 5-septate spores with a hyaline mucous membrane as reported in the original description”.

– ***Pleospora lindaviana* Reichert** – Botanische Jahrbücher für Systematik 56: 671. 1921. XXVI: 425. EGYPT. On dry stems of *Salsola* sp., Kasr (etym.: Palace) Eschtrach, Cairo (?), Nov. 1822/25, leg. C.G. Ehrenberg.

Wehmeyer (1961) overlooked this species of *Pleospora* in his general account on the genus.

– ***Pleospora media* var. *ephedrina* Trott.** – Nuovo giornale botanico italiano, n.s. 23: 16. 1916. XXIV: 1029. LIBYA. On dead twigs of *Ephedra altissima*, Rumia, Yefran, Mar. 1914, leg. A. Trotter; H.: not in PAD.

According to Wehmeyer (1961: 363) the variety is probably *Pleospora scrophularia* (Desm.) Höhnelt but examination of type material is essential to ascertain the similarity. *Pleospora media* Niessl is presently regarded as matching *P. penicillus* Fückel – Jahrbücher der Nassauischen Vereins für Naturkunde 27-28: 23. 1873 (Wehmeyer, 1961).

– ***Pleospora oligomera* var. *australis* Trott.** – Nuovo giornale botanico italiano, n.s. 23: 16. 1916. XXIV: 1039. LIBYA. On decaying branches of *Eremobium longisiliquum*, Tajoura, Tripoli, Mar. 1913, leg. A. Trotter; H.: not in PAD.

Pleospora oligomera Sacc. & Speg. – Michelia 1 (4): 408. 1878, is a well established member of the genus.

Following Wehmeyer (1961) re-examination of the varietal type material is a prerequisite for a relevant sound taxonomic decision. According to Gola (1930) only two specimens from Libya simply labelled “*Pleospora oligomera* S. & Spg.” are present in Saccardo’s herbarium. A fresh collection of the variety *australis* is thus necessary.

– ***Pleospora pegani* Bubák** – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 202. 1914; *nomen dubium*, *vide* Wehmeyer L.E. – A world monograph of the genus *Pleospora* and its segregates: 369. 1961. XXIV: 1037. SYRIA. On the cortex of *Pegani harmala*, at the limits between Mesopotamia and northern Arabia, in the steppe of the middle river Euphrates region, between Meskene and Der El-Sor, close to the village of Subcha, 250-350 m, 28 Mar. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 522 p. p.

Wehmeyer (1961: 369) failed to locate a relevant collection in Bubák’s herbarium. On the basis of published information no conclusion could be achieved by Wehmeyer as spore septations were reported “to vary widely from 4- to 5-7 septa, with dimensions being from 25-38-50 × 11-17-23 μm”.

– ***Pleospora phaeocomoides* (Berk. & Broome) G. Winter, in Rabenhorst G.L.** – Rabenhorst’ Kryptogamenflora 1 (2): 513. 1887; Wehmeyer L.E. – A world monograph of the genus *Pleospora* and its segregates: 113. 1961.

= *Pleospora stellariae* Bubák [as *stellerae*] – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 203. 1914; synonymy *vide* Wehmeyer (1961: 119). XXIV: 1027. SYRIA. On old twigs of *Stellerae lesserti*, close to Tell (etym.: hill) Tenenir along the river Chabur, Mesopotamia, 400 m, 15 Jun. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 1650 (erroneously cited as no. 7650 by Wehmeyer, = Wehmeyer’ no. 115).

Re-examination by Wehmeyer (1961: 119) of the material studied by Bubák (1914) showed ascospores smaller than those originally reported, and matching ascospores of *Pleospora phaeocomoides*; hence the proposed synonymy.

– ***Pleospora rotundata* Reichert** – Botanische Jahrbücher für Systematik 56: 671. 1921. XXVI: 430. EGYPT. On dry stems of *Lycium* sp., at Bir Kres, Sep. 1822/25; also on dry stems of *Varthemia candicans*, close to the City of Alexandria, 1822/25; both specimens leg. C.G. Ehrenberg.

This species of *Pleospora* is absent from the list of taxa treated by Wehmeyer (1961) in his world monograph of the genus.

– ***Pleospora rudis* Berl. var. *rudis*** – Nuovo giornale botanico italiano, n.s. 20: 45. 1888; Wehmeyer L.E. – A world monograph of the genus *Pleospora* and its segregates: 56. 1961.

= *Pleospora herbarum* var. *cleomes* Bubák – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 201. 1914; synonymy *vide* Wehmeyer (1961: 58). XXIV: 1038. IRAK. On dead twigs of *Cleomes glauca*, at the limits between Mesopotamia and northern Arabia, in the middle river Euphrates region, in the desert between Ana and Haditha, 120-180 m, 7 Apr. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 771.

= *Pleospora prosopidis* Bubák – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 202. 1914; synonymy *vide* Wehmeyer (1961: 58). XXIV: 1033. SYRIA. On dead twigs of *Prosopis stephaniana*, between the City of Alep and the river Euphrates in the steppe, on the Nahr El-Daheb river, 380 m, 24 Mar. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 310 (Wehmeyer No. 924); same host, at the limits between Mesopotamia and northern Arabia at the middle river Euphrates Region, between Meskene and Der El-Sor, close to El-Hammam, 250-350 m, 27 Mar. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 484 p. p. (erroneously cited as no. 486 by Wehmeyer, = Wehmeyer No. 924).

= *Didymosphaeria prosopidis* Bubák – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 198. 1914; synonymy *vide* Aptroot (1995). XXIV: 931. SYRIA. On dead branches of *Prosopis stephaniana*, at the limits between Mesopotamia and northern Arabia, in the steppe at the middle river Euphrates region, between Meskene and Der El-Sor, close to El-Hammam, 250-350 m, 27 Mar. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 484 p. p.

According to Wehmeyer (1961) the presence in the original material of *Pleospora herbarum* var. *cleomes* of ascospores not having more than four septa accounts for the similarity with *P. rudis*. His examination of authentic specimen of *Pleospora prosopidis* revealed however the presence of three *Pleospora* species and of ascocarps having spores consistent with *P. rudis*, hence the proposed synonymy.

The original collection of *Pleospora prosopidis* is also the type material of *Didymosphaeria prosopidis*: Aptroot (1995) re-examined the specimen and concluded that it is young material of the relevant *Pleospora*.

– ***Protomyces cyrenaicus* Parisi** – Bulletino dell'orto botanico della regia universita di Napoli 9: 56. 1927, publ. 1928. LIBYA. On leaves of *Thelygonum cynocrambe*, Grotto of Lethe, Benghazi, 1922-25, leg. R. Cavara; H.: not in PAD.

Based on the relevant published information, Reddy & Kramer (1975) considered the spore diameters of this yeast, 2-14 µm, as being too small for a species of *Protomyces* Unger 1823; also, the host seems unlikely for a member of the genus being a taxon of the Family *Thelegonaceae*.

– ***Protothyrium salvadore* (Cooke) G. Arnaud** – Annales de l'école nationale d'agriculture de Montpellier, n.s. 16: 101. 1918.

≡ *Phyllachora salvadora* Cooke – Grevillea 13 (no. 67): 65. 1885.

= *Asterina confluens* Kalchbr. & Cooke – Grevillea 8: 33, tab. 137, fig. 45. 1880.

= *Asterina confluens* Pat. [as *Asterina ? confluens*] – Journal de Botanique, Morot 2: 149. 1888. IX: 397. XV: 54; *nomen invalidum*, homonym. YEMEN. On both faces of leaves of *Salvadora persica*, date ?, leg. A. Deflers. H.: FH no. 7169.

= *Asterella confluens* (Pat.) Sacc. – Sylloge fungorum IX: 397. 1891.

Patouillard (1888) was apparently not convinced of the correct generic placement of Deflers' material probably due to the absence of "creeping mycelium on the leaf surface and the negative Iodine test".

– ***Rosellinia australis* Sacc. & Trott.** – Annales mycologici 11: 416. 1913 [non *Rosellinia australis* Speg. – Anales del museo nacional de Buenos Aires 19: 337-338. 1909]. XXIV: 834. LIBYA. On dead stems of *Nicotiana glauca*, Ain Zara and Bir Tobras, Tripoli, Mar. 1913, leg. A. Trotter; H.: PAD.

Petrini (1993) undertook the revision of *Rosellinia* De Not. 1844 species collected in the temperate zones of Europe and North America. This author then stressed the need for a modern monographic account of the genus.

– ***Rosellinia rhacodioides* Sacc.** – Bulletin de la société botanique italienne 22: 151. 1913. XXIV: 830. LIBYA. On the basal stem sheath of *Stipa tenacissima*, Garian, 24 Apr. 1913, leg. R. Pampanini; H.: PAD.

For comments, see *Rosellinia australis*.

– ***Sphaerella minor* var. *poterii* Parisi** – Bulletino dell'orto botanico della regia universita di Napoli 9: 58. 1927, publ. 1928. Name not cited by Reed & Farr (1993: 340). LIBYA. On dry twigs and branches of *Sarcopoterium spinosum*, between Al-Marj and Shahat, Apr. 1922-25, leg. R. Cavara; H.: not in PAD.

Sphaerella minor P. Karst. is presently known as *Mycosphaerella minor* (P. Karst.) Johanson – Öfversigt af förhandlingar: kongl. Svenska vetenskapsakademien 9: 165. 1884. The variety should also be transferred to *Mycosphaerella* Johanson following recognition of a generic status to that section of the large genus *Sphaerella* Ces. & De Not comprising this taxonomic unit. *Sphaerella* awaits a global modern taxonomic revision (Corlett, 1991, 1995).

– ***Sphaerodothis schweinfurthii* Reichert** – Botanische Jahrbücher für Systematik 56: 669. 1921. XXVI: 278. EGYPT. Two collections are cited: On leaves and stems of *Sporobolus spicatus*, Village of Rosetta, Lower Egypt, Mar. 1822/25, leg. C.G. Ehrenberg; on sandy soil, City of Ismailia along the Suez Canal, 28 Apr. 1880, leg. G. Schweinfurth.

This species of *Sphaerodothis* (Sacc. & P. Syd.) Shear 1909 has not been re-assessed in modern terms despite several attempts to monograph the genus (Cannon, 1989).

– ***Terfezia boudieri* var. *arabica* Chatin** – La Truffe: 74, pl. 14, fig. 2. 1892. XI: 445; XII: 102; XX: 934; XXII: 595. SAUDI ARABIA. Probably collected in the land of the Wahabites, northern Arabia; posted to the author by a missionary priest established in the City of Damascus.

The species *Terfezia boudieri* Chatin – La Truffe: 72. 1892, was based on specimens originating from southern Algeria; it was formerly regarded by Tulasne as representing immature *Terfezia leonis* Tul. (Chatin, 1892: 72), now considered a synonym of *T. arenaria* Trappe (Trappe, 1971). *Terfezia boudieri* was recently collected in Morocco by Khabar *et al.* (2001). However, no further information on the variety *arabica* seems to be available.

– ***Terfezia claveryi* Chatin** – Bulletin de la société botanique de France 38: 332. 1891; La Truffe: 74, pl. 14, fig. 3 a-e. 1892; Ferry R. – Revue Mycologique,

Toulouse 15: 3. 1893. XI: 445; XII: 1028; XX: 935. SYRIA. In the vicinity of the City of Damascus, Apr. 1891, leg. Mr Guillois.

Chatin (1891) received the specimens of this “kamé of Damascus” (local name) from Mr Guillois “Consul de France à Damas”, via Mr Clavery, an official of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The presence of this *Terfezia* in Kuwait was confirmed by Moustafa (1985) and more recently in Morocco by Khabar *et al.* (2001). The ascospores are globose, 18-21 µm, with a reticulate wall.

– *Terfezia deflersii* Pat. – Journal de Botanique, Morot 8: 154. 1894; Reichert I. – Botanische Jahrbücher für Systematik 56: 666. 1921. EGYPT. On sandy soil, close to the City of El-Arish, north Sinai, *socio cum Helianthemum lipii*, 1891, leg. A. Deflers. XXII: 595.

Following Patouillard (1894) representative specimens of *Terfezia deflersii* are reminiscent of *T. metaxasi* Chatin by their forms and dimensions, but differ basically by their clear dark colour and ascospores being definitely smaller: 20-25 µm. *Terfezia deflersii* was recently reported as a synonym of *T. boudieri* Chatin by Kreisel & Al-Fatimi (2004); these authors omitted however to indicate the place of publication of this taxonomic decision.

– *Terfezia hafizii* Chatin [as *hafizi*] – La Truffe: 78, pl. 14, fig. 2 a-e. 1892; Ferry R. – Revue Mycologique, Toulouse 15: 3. 1893; Patouillard N. – Journal de Botanique, Morot 8: 152. 1894a. XI: 445; XII: 1028; XX: 935. IRAK. Collected near the City of Bagdad, Jun. 1891, leg. Mr Metaxas; local name “white Kamé of Bagdad”.

Chatin (1892: 77) received in 1891 two *Terfezia* specimens from Mr Metaxas, an inhabitant of Bagdad City and a member of the French “Société nationale d’Acclimatation”. The first whitish specimen was selected as type material of *Terfezia hafizii*, dedicated to Mr Bou-Median-Ben Hafiz, a “distinguished pharmacist of the city of Biskra (southern Algeria) and corresponding member of the Paris Natural History Museum”. The second blackish specimen became the reference material for *Terfezia metaxasi* Chatin.

Bubák (1914: 195) provided details of two *Terfezia* specimens reported to *T. hafizii* originating respectively from Syria (No. 285 det. Bresadola) and from Irak (No. 1111).

– *Terfezia metaxasi* Chatin – La Truffe: 78, pl. 13, fig. 2 a-c. 1892; Ferry R. – Revue Mycologique, Toulouse 15: 1893; Patouillard N. – Journal de Botanique, Morot 8: 152. 1894. IRAK. Observed in the vicinity of Bagdad City, Jun. 1891, leg. Mr Metaxas; local name “dark Kamé of Bagdad”.

Chatin (1892) introduced the name for the dark Iraki specimen of *Terfezia* received from Mr Metaxas. The fruiting body developed in the spring (March-April) in the arid areas surrounding the Iraki capital. According to Chatin (1892) the species seems to be relatively more appreciated than *Terfezia claveryi* for consumption in the region.

– *Trematosphaeria prominens* Sacc. & Trott. – Annales mycologici 11: 416. 1913. XXIV: 1011. LIBYA. On dead twigs of *Genista microcephala*, Kasr Garian, May 1913, leg. A. Trotter; H.: PAD.

Boise (1984) provided a modern description of some members of *Trematosphaeria* Fückel 1870 but did not consider the present species.

REGARDING the combination *Guignardia aegyptiaca* (Müll. Arg.) Reichert – *Botanische Jahrbücher für Systematik* 56: 669. 1921.

In 1921, Reichert introduced the combination with the following three synonyms: *Verrucaria aegyptiaca* Müll. Arg. – *Revue Mycologique*, Toulouse 2 (9): 82. 1880: a lichenized ascomycete, *Carlia cahirensis* Steiner – *Sitzungsberichte der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften. Mathematisch-naturwissenschaftliche Classe, Abteilung I*, 102: 171. 1893: a lichenicolous ascomycete, and *Laestadia aegyptiaca* Keissl. – *Oesterreichische botanische Zeitschrift* 59: 276. 1909.

The binomial *Laestadia aegyptiaca* Keissl. is most probably a transcription error of the combination appearing in this Austrian botanical journal in the same printed page: *Laestadia aegyptiaca* (Müll. Arg.) Keissl. – *Oesterreichische botanische Zeitschrift* 59: 276. 1909; ≡ *Verrucaria aegyptiaca* Müll. Arg. – *Revue Mycologique*, Toulouse 2 (9): 82. 1880. In the combination introduced by Reichert (1921), *Verrucaria aegyptiaca* Müll. Arg. could thus be regarded as the basionym of *Guignardia verrucaria* (Müll. Arg.) Reichert, with *Carlia cahirensis* Steiner being a synonym of the former.

The non lichenized ascomycetous genus *Guignardia* was established by Viala & Ravaz (1892) after the discovery that *Laestadia* Auersw. 1868 is a later homonym of the phanerogamic genus *Laestadia* Kunth 1812, Family *Compositae*. These authors did not, however, concomitantly transfer all known species of *Laestadia* to the new generic entity.

Guignardia Viala & Ravaz, typified by *G. bidwellii* (Ellis) Viala & Ravaz, was recently proposed for conservation by D.L. Hawksworth & J.C. David (in *Taxon* 38: 494-495. 1989). Unless conserved, *Guignardia*, because of automatic typification by the type of its replaced synonym *Laestadia* Auersw. non Less., would then be a synonym of *Plagiostoma* Fückel. Under such conditions *Guignardia bidwellii* along with some forty congeneric species would have to be classified in *Discochora* Höhnelt; some of these species are important plant pathogens. The relevant proposal of conservation no. 936 was subsequently recommended by the Committee for Fungi and Lichens (see Gams, 1992).

Reichert's (1921) proposal to transfer *Verrucaria aegyptiaca* to *Guignardia* was apparently an attempt to comply with Viala & Ravaz' decision on this generic entity. *Verrucaria aegyptiaca* Müll. Arg. was however renamed in the same year by Zahlbruckner (1921) as *Dermatocarpon aegyptiacum* (Müll. Arg.) Zahlbr., a generic transfer still admitted for that lichen (Seaward & Sipman, 2006).

Carlia cahirensis J. Steiner (Steiner, 1893) also has type material originating from Egypt: On limestone in the arid Mount Mokattam, close to Cairo, (date ?), F.K. van Marilaun. A few years after its introduction Vouaux (1912) re-examined the original material and concluded that this "fungal parasite of lichens" should belong to *Laestadia*. Reichert (1921) apparently assumed *Laestadia* (*Carlia*) *cahirensis* was identical to *Laestadia* (*Verrucaria*) *aegyptiaca* and listed it as a synonym of the former.

Seaward & Sipman (2006) used the name *Laestadia* (*Carlia*) *cahirensis* for this lichenicolous fungus. It seems that the taxonomic position of this organism awaits a definitive clarification, having also been known as *Guignardia cahirensis* (J. Steiner) Sacc., in Saccardo P.A. – *Sylloge fungorum* XXIV (II): 786, or *Plagiostoma cahirensis* (J. Steiner) Clauzade, Diederich & Cl. Roux – *Bulletin de la société linnéenne de Provence, numéro spécial* 1: 47. 1989; *nomen invalidum*, Art. 33.3, the basionym reference being omitted.

The present taxonomic history of this Egyptian lichen is as follows:

***Dermatocarpon aegyptiacum* (Müll. Arg.) Zahlbr., in Zahlbruckner A.** – Catalogus lichenum Universalis 1: 205. 1921; the whole volume was reprinted in 1922.

≡ *Verrucaria aegyptiaca* Müll. Arg. – Revue mycologique, Toulouse 2 (9) : 82. 1880. EGYPT. On limestone, in the desert at Wadi Chereese, Wadi Naumieh and Wadi Nehiel, 1879 (?), leg. G. Schweinfurth.

= *Endopyrenium aegyptiacum* (Müll. Arg.) Müll. Arg. – Revue Mycologique, Toulouse 6 : 20. 1884.

= *Laestadia aegyptiaca* (Müll. Arg.) Keissl. – Oesterreichische botanische Zeitschrift 59: 276. 1909.

= *Guignardia aegyptiaca* (Müll. Arg.) Reichert – Botanische Jahrbücher für Systematik 56: 669. 1921.

= *Verrucula aegyptiaca* Keissl. – Sitzungsberichte der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften. Mathematisch-naturwissenschaftliche Classe, Abteilung I, 105: 444. 1896.

REGARDING the combination *Amphisphaeria palmarum* (Maffei) El-Buni & S.S. Rattan - Check List of Libyan Fungi. Supplement to Flora of Libya (Tripoli): 9. 1981.

≡ *Massariella palmarum* Maffei – Atti dell'istituto botanico dell'università di Pavia 12: 22. 1907, tab. 11, figs. 1-5. XX: 32; XXII: 179.

Müller & von Arx (1962: 695) were the first to include *Massariella* Speg. 1880 in *Amphisphaeria* Ces. & De Not. 1863. They based their decision on the fact that “neither the degree of immersion of the stromata nor the intensity of the spore colour are sufficient grounds for recognizing the genera as distinct”. Eriksson & Hawksworth (1988: 80) examined holotype material of the generic type species of *Massariella*, *M. bufonia* (Berk. & Broome) Speg. (≡ *Sphaeria bufonia* Berk. & Broome – Annales de Natural History, no. 629, t. 10, fig. 13. 1852). They confirmed the earlier observation by Dennis (1968: 202) relating to the presence of an Iodine+ blue ring in the ascus tip. *Massariella* Speg. thus clearly belongs to the family *Amphisphaeriaceae* G. Winter 1885.

Following Saccardo P.A. – *Sylloge fungorum* XX: 32. 1911, the type of *Massariella palmarum* was collected in Italy: Hab. On *Cocoes campestris*, Pegli liguriae, Italia boreale. The combination introduced by El-Buni & Rattan S.S. (1981) is accordingly not related to any novel fungal taxa originating from Libya.

KNOWN species of ascomycetes also reported by Bubák (1914) and Reichert (1921) for the Middle East:

For an exhaustive analysis of these major regional documents, all other reported but already known ascomycetes were also here considered. Their respective taxonomic positions are equally updated following present day information. Their original localities of collections are specified following modern political borders. For each known ascomycete the page of citation in the original publication is indicated with the present name of the country of collection; both data are cited in relation with the binomial used by Bubák (1914) and by Reichert (1921).

– *Cymadothea trifolii* (Pers.) F.A. Wolf – Mycologia 27 (1): 71. 1935.

≡ *Sphaeria trifolii* Pers. – Synopsis methodica fungorum 1: 30. 1801 [non *Sphaeria trifolii* Fückel – *Symbolae mycologicae*: 112. 1869, publ. 1870, now *Didymella trifolii* (Fückel) Sacc., in Saccardo P.A. – *Sylloge fungorum* 11: 554. 1895].

= *Phyllachora trifolii* (Pers.) Fückel – Jahrbücher der Nassauischen vereins für naturkunde 23-24: 218. 1869-70, publ. 1870. Bubák F. 28: 195. 1914; Reichert I. 56: 668. 1921. EGYPT and IRAK.

– *Didymosphaeria epidermidis* (Fr.) Fückel [as *epidermidis*] – Jahrbücher der Nassauischen vereins für naturkunde 23-24: 140. 1869-70, publ. 1870.

≡ *Sphaeria epidermidis* Fr. – Systema mycologicum 2 (2): 499. 1823. Reichert I. 56: 676. 1921. EGYPT.

– *Phaeosphaeria donacina* (Sacc.) Shoemaker & C.F. Babc. – Canadian Journal of Botany 67 (5): 1524. 1989.

= *Leptosphaeria donacina* Sacc. – Atti dell'Accademia scientificata Veneto-Trentino-Istria, Padova 2 (2): 155. 1873. Reichert I. 56: 676. 1921. EGYPT.

= *Leptostroma donacinum* (Sacc.) Sacc. – Michelia 2 (no. 7): 352. 1881.

– *Melanopsamma pomiformis* (Pers.) Sacc. – Michelia 1 (no. 3): 347. 1878.

≡ *Sphaeria pomiformis* Pers. – Synopsis methodica fungorum 1: 65. 1801. Reichert I. 56: 669. 1921. EGYPT.

– *Morchella esculenta* (L.) Pers. – Neues magazin für die botanik: 618. 1794.

≡ *Phallus esculentus* L. – Species Plantarum 2: 1178. 1753.

= *Morchella esculenta* (L.) Pers. forma *rotunda* Fr. – Systema mycologicum 2 (1): 7. 1822. Reichert I. 56: 673. 1921. EGYPT.

– *Morchella vulgaris* (Pers.) Boud. – Bulletin de la Société Mycologique de France 13: 139. 1897.

≡ *Morchella esculenta* β *vulgaris* Pers. – Synopsis methodica fungorum 2: 619. 1801.

= *Morchella conica* Pers. – Traité sur les Champignons Comestibles (Paris): 257. 1818. Reichert I. 56: 673. 1921. EGYPT.

– *Neocosmospora vasinfecta* E.F. Smith – Bulletin of the U.S. Department of Agriculture 17: 45. 1899. Reichert I. 56: 667. 1921. EGYPT.

– *Pharcidia epicymatia* (Wallr.) G. Winter, in Rabenhorst G.L. – Rabenhorst Kryptogamenflora 1 (2): 342. 1885.

≡ *Sphaeria epicymatia* Wallr. – Flora cryptogamica Germaniae 2: no. 3741. 1833. Reichert I. 56: 676. 1921. EGYPT.

– *Phyllachora cynodontis* Niessl [as (Sacc.) Niessl] – Verhandlungen des naturforschenden vereins in Brünn 14: 219. 1876. Reichert I. 56: 667. 1921. EGYPT.

– *Pleospora asphodeli* Rabenh. – Fungi europaei exsiccati, etc. no. 2659 (*absque diagnosi*). Reichert I. 56: 670. 1921. EGYPT.

According to Wehmeyer (1961: 119) “this is a doubtful species which shows spores of *Pleospora phaeocomoides*, *P. scrophulariae*, and *P. herbarum* on the type”.

– *Pleospora chlamydospora* Sacc. – Michelia 2: 139. 1880. Bubák F. 28: 199. 1914. IRAK.

– *Pleospora herbarum* (Pers.) Rabenh. – Herbarium mycologicum 2: 547. 1854. Bubák F. 28: 200. 1914. IRAK.

Anamorph: *Stemphylium herbarum* E.G. Simmons – Sydowia 38: 291. 1985.

Simmons (1985) stated “several years of culture work with many isolates of *Stemphylium* Wall. and of *Pleospora* Rabenh. defend the statement that ascospore *P. herbarum* and its anamorph, constitute a species quite distinct from *Stemphylium botryosum* Wallr. and its teleomorph”.

Simmons then proposed the name *Stemphylium herbarum* E.G. Simmons for the anamorph of *Pleospora herbarum* and the name *P. tarda* E.G. Simmons for the teleomorph of *Stemphylium botryosum*. These taxonomic decisions imply a re-assessment of published data of phytopathological nature implicating both *Stemphylium* anamorphs.

– ***Pyrenophora pachyasca* Sydow** – Annales mycologici 6: 529. 1908. Bubák F. 28: 199. 1914. IRAK.

– ***Scirrhia rimosa* (Alb. & Schwein.) Fückel** – Jahrbücher der Nassauischen vereins für naturkunde 23-24: 221. 1869-70, publ. 1870.

≡ *Sphaeria rimosa* Alb. & Schwein. – Conspectus Fungorum: 13. 1805. Reichert I. 56: 667. 1921. EGYPT.

According to von Arx & Müller (1975) *Hadrotrichum phragmitis* Fückel is often associated with *Scirrhia rimosa* on *Phragmites australis*, but seems not to be its conidial state.

– ***Taphrina deformans* (Berk.) Tul.** – Annales des Sciences Naturelles (Paris), Botanique, Sér. 5, 5: 122-136. 1866.

≡ *Ascomyces deformans* Berk. – Outlines of British Fungology: 71. 1860.

= *Exoascus deformans* (Berk.) Fückel – Jahrbücher der Nassauischen vereins für naturkunde 23-24: 17. 1869-70, publ. 1870. Reichert I. 56: 698. 1921. EGYPT.

– ***Terfezia arenaria* (Moris) Trappe** – Transactions of the British Mycological Society 57 (1): 90. 1971.

≡ *Tuber arenarium* Moris – *Stirpium sardoarum elenchus*: ?. 1827-1829.

= *Terfezia leonis* (Tul. & C. Tul.) Tul. – Exploration scientifique d'Algérie, Botanique, Atlas 1: 432. 1895; *nomen illegitimum*, fide Trappe (1971). VII: 164. Reichert I. 56: 666. 1921, as *Terfezia leonis* Tul. EGYPT.

– ***Tirmania nivea* (Desf. : Fr.) Trappe** – Transactions of the British Mycological Society 57 (1): 88. 1971.

≡ *Tuber niveum* Desf. : Fr. – Systema mycologicum 2: 292. 1823.

= *Terfezia ovalispora* Pat., in Dybowski J. – Naturaliste 12: 168. 1891; *nomen nudum*.

= *Tirmania africana* Chatin – Bulletin de la Société Botanique de France 38: 62. 1891; former generic type species.

= *Tirmania cambonii* Chatin – La Truffe: 81. 1892.

= *Tirmania ovalispora* (Pat.) Pat. – Enumeration des champignons observés en Tunisie: 9. 1892; illegitimate combination. Reichert I. 56: 666. 1921 [as *Tirmania ovalispora* Pat., in Journal de Botanique, Morot 8: 155. 1894, were the name was only cited], EGYPT.

= *Tirmania ovalispora* var. *tellieri* Pat. – Bulletin de la Société Mycologique de France 15: 59. 1899; *nomen illegitimum*.

= *Terfezia africana* (Chatin) Maire & Werner – Mémoires de la Société des Sciences Naturelles du Maroc 45: 17. 1937.

The complicated nomenclatural history of the species was resolved by Trappe (1971). He selected as a neotype for *Tirmania nivea*, Patouillard's type collection of *Tirmania ovalispora* at PC: Tunisia, M'Zab, leg. J. Dybowski, March 1890.

Following Alsheikh & Trappe (1983), Hennings' (1895) record of *Tirmania nivea* (as *T. africana*) from Egypt, near Alexandria, is the only report from the Nile basin. This collection could not however be located by both authors in Hennings' collection in Berlin.

– *Xylaria hypoxylon* (L.) Grev. – Flora edinensis: 355. 1824.
 ≡ *Clavaria hypoxylon* L. – Species Plantarum: 1182. 1753. Reichert I. 56: 672. 1921.
 EGYPT.

TAXA new to science reported by Bubák (1914) but originating from present-day Turkey:

Several specimens of the Handel-Mazzetti Expedition were collected in localities of the “hypothetical large Kurdistan land”. Some of these localities are presently in the modern state of Turkey. Few of these specimens represent holotypes of novel taxa equally described by Bubák (1914). As the state of Turkey is not regarded as being part of the Middle East region (Mouchacca 1995, 1999), these particular new species are thus treated separately. Their taxonomic positions are also updated following present-day information if necessary.

– *Comoclathris sororia* (Bubák) Shoemaker & C.E. Babc. – Canadian Journal of Botany 70 (8): 1639. 1992.

≡ *Pleospora sororia* Bubák – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 202. 1914. XXIV: 1026. On dead branches of *Dianthus orientalis*, Mount Nimrud Dag, close to the Village of Kjachta, District of Mamuret El-Asis, Western Kurdistan, 2000-2200 m, 12 Jul. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 2057 p. p.

– *Cucurbitaria acanthophyllii* Bubák – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 196. 1914. XXIV: 1056. On twigs of *Acanthophylli verticillati*, close to the City of Kjachta, District of Mamuret El-Asis, in the direction of the river Euphrates, around the Village of Karamubara, Western Kurdistan, 650 m, 9 Jul. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 1133 p. p.; *socio cum Hendersonia acanthophyllii*.

This taxon was not considered by Mirza (1968) in his revision of the genus *Cucurbitaria* Gray 1821.

– *Cucurbitaria kurdica* Bubák – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 197. 1914. XXIV: 1057. On decomposing stems of *Astragalus kurdica*, between Malatya and the Village of Kjachta, on the slopes of Mount Gök Tepe, in the direction of Kumik, Western Kurdistan, 2000 m, 16 Aug. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 2282.

Mirza (1968) overlooked this *Cucurbitaria* in his revision of the genus.

– *Massariosphaeria melicae* (Bubák) Shoemaker – Canadian Journal of Botany 67: 1582. 1989.

≡ *Leptosphaeria melicae* Bubák – Annalen der K. K. Naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 198. 1914 [non *Leptosphaeria melicae* Pass. – Atti della societa crittogamologica italiana, Ser. 2, 2: 44-45. 1879]. XXIV: 983. On dead twigs of *Melica inaequiglumis*, at the summit of Mount Meleto Dag, District of Bitlis, Medium Kurdistan, 2900-3100 m, 11 Sep. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 2748.

The transfer to *Massariosphaeria* (Müll.) Crivelli 1983 is justified by the presence of dictyosporous ascospores.

– *Melanomma bubakii* Rehm, in Bubák F. – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 195. 1914. XXIV: 1008. On dead twigs of *Campanula stricta*, at the summit of Mount Nimrud Dag, Village of Kjachta, District of Mamuret El-Asis, Western Kurdistan, 2000-2250 m, 12 Aug. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 2114 p. p.

The taxonomic position of the species awaits reconsideration (Sivanesan, 1984).

– *Pleosphaeria anchonii* Bubák – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 196. 1914. XXIV: 1008. On dead twigs of *Anchoni tournefortii*, Mount Meleto Dag, District of Bitlis, Medium Kurdistan, 2600-3100 m, 11 Aug. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 2799.

Taxa ascribed to *Pleosphaeria* Speg. 1881 have not been re-evaluated since their introduction (Eriksson & Hawksworth, 1993).

– *Pleospora curvasca* Bubák – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 200. 1914; Wehmeyer L.E. – A world monograph of the genus *Pleospora* and its segregates: 52. 1961. XXIV: 1025. On dead stems of *Campanula stricta*, Mount Nimrud Dag, Village of Kjachta, District of Mamuret-El-Asis, Western Kurdistan, 1900-2250 m, 12 Jul. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 2081 p. p. (Wehmeyer 903 from BKL ex Bubák herb.).

According to Wehmeyer (1961) Bubák's measurements are rather too large throughout. The type consists of a small stem which contains two species of *Pleospora*. One matches the description of *Pleospora curvasca*; the other one has large (39-44 × 18-20 µm), red-brown, 7-septate spores and appears to be *P. chlamydospora* Sacc.

– *Pleospora coloradensis* Ellis & Everhart – Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia: 422. 1895; Wehmeyer L.E. – A world monograph of the genus *Pleospora* and its segregates: 178. 1961. XI: xxxi; XII: 579; XIV: 597.

= *Pleospora kurdistanica* Bubák – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 201. 1914; synonymy *fide* Wehmeyer (1961). XXIV: 1030; XXVI: 424. On dead twigs and peduncles of *Salvia caespitosa*, among the stones in Mount Ak Gagh, between Malatya and the Village of Kjachta, Western Kurdistan, 17 Jul. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 2306 (Wehmeyer No. 915).

Authentic available material of *Pleospora kurdistanica* showed a similarity with *P. coloradensis* (Wehmeyer, 1961).

– *Pleospora herbarum* (Fr.) Rabenh. – Herbarium mycologicum 2: 547. 1857; Wehmeyer L.E. – A world monograph of the genus *Pleospora* and its segregates: 147. 1961.

= *Pleospora herbarum* var. *asperulina* Bubák – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 201. 1914; synonymy *fide* Wehmeyer (1961). XXIV: 1038. On dead stems of *Asperula asperne*, Mount Meleto Dag, District of Bitlis, Middle Kurdistan, 2900-3100 m, 11 Aug. 1901, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 2747 p. p.

Wehmeyer (1961) stated that only a manuscript description of the variety is available in Bubák's herbarium in Brooklyn and it cannot be distinguished from a large-spored *Pleospora herbarum*.

– *Pyrenophora convexispora* Bubák – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 198. 1914; Wehmeyer L.E. – A world monograph of the genus *Pleospora* and its segregates: 196. 1961; *nomen dubium*, *fide* Wehmeyer (1961). XXIV: 1041. On dead leaves of *Arenaria timola*, Mount Ak Dag, between Malatya and the Village of Kjachta, Western Kurdistan, 2500-2670 m, 17 Jul. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 2337.

Wehmeyer (1961) re-examined authentic material. He concluded that it represents a form of *Pleospora helvetica* Niessl near the variety *crandallii* of *P. ambigua* (Berl. & Bres.) Wehm. However, known species of *Pyrenophora* Fr. 1849 develop conidial structures of the form genus *Drechslera* Ito (Sivanesan 1984).

– *Pyrenophora dubia* Bubák – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 199. 1914. XXIV: 1044. On dead rachis leaves of *Astragalus icmadophylli*, Mount Meleto Dagħ, District of Bitlis, Medium Kurdistan, 2600-3100 m, 11 Aug. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti no. 2798.

The holotype was regarded by Wehmeyer (1961) as approximating *Pleospora chlamydospora* Sacc. but the synonymy was not then proposed.

– *Roumegueriella handelii* Bubák – Annalen der K. K. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums 28: 214. 1914. XXV: 486. On old twigs of *Asperula aspera*, growing among the stones at the summit of Mount Meleto (Meretug) Dagħ, District of Bitlis, 2900-3100 m, 18 Aug. 1910, leg. Handel-Mazzetti No. 2747 p. p.

This species of *Roumegueriella* Speg. 1880 has apparently not received further attention since its description (Udagawa *et al.*, 1994).

DISCUSSION

For the period under consideration, novel ascomycetes originating from the Middle East (excluding present-day Turkey, following Mouchacca 1999) are represented by 43 taxa (Tab. 1). These were commonly introduced as species of known genera rather than as varieties of known species. No new genus of ascomycetes has apparently been established on material gathered in the area prior to 1940. A large proportion (81.3%) was introduced in the period 1910-1930, especially in the second decade of the century (48.8%). This activity was simply not hindered by the first World War: most of the Syrian and Iraki taxa were published by Bubák in 1914 while the Libyan ones were named in Italy from 1912-1917. Most of the Egyptian units were authored by Reichert in 1921 based on material collected by German botanists before the war years.

No new ascomycete originating from the Asian part of the Middle East was named after World War I. Following this event the survey of the local mycobiota will be restricted to Egypt. Several notes will then be produced by visiting English speaking experts and by Egyptian plant pathologists (Briton-Jones, 1922; Fahmy, 1927). World War I will however bring to end the German interest in the Biodiversity of the region. Similar interest by the Italians to the Libyan fungi will also slacken in the post War years.

The collecting sites of the new ascomycetes are assigned to four present-day political States only, since, for either Yemen or Saudi Arabia, simply one name had been reported: respectively *Asterina confluens* and *Terfezia boudieri* var. *arabica*. Over one third (34.9%) of the group originate from Libya: this is a good indication of the efforts made by Italian experts to survey the “biodiversity of the new colony” at the start of the 20th century. Egypt stands next (27.9%) with most novel taxa being named by Reichert (1921) from material present in Berlin. The remaining taxa (32.6%) have original localities in Syria and Irak, with seven in each. Finally, the combinations *Guignardia aegyptiaca* (Müll. Arg.) Reichert and *Amphisphaeria palmarum* (Maffei) El-Buni & S.S. Rattan are not related to any mideastern new ascomycete.

The holotypes of the new ascomycetes commonly developed on plant material, living, senescent or dead. This is to be expected since the specimens were collected by botanists exploring the local higher green plants. The only two deviating organisms are the fungicolous *Hypomyces galericola* and the

Table 1. Present taxonomic positions of novel ascomycetous taxa retrieved.

<i>Anamorph-Teleomorph Connection</i>	
Anamorph	Teleomorph
<i>Penicillium egyptiacum</i> van Beyma 1933	<i>Eupenicillium egyptiacum</i> (van Beyma) Stolk & Scott
Generic Transfer	
<i>Sphaerella athamantae</i> Parisi 1928	<i>Mycosphaerella athamantae</i> (Parisi) Morelet
<i>Sphaerella graminis</i> Sacc. 1913	<i>Mycosphaerella graminis</i> (Sacc.) Tomilin
Synonymy	
<i>Leptosphaeria stipae</i> Trab.	<i>Leptosphaeria pampaniniana</i> Sacc. 1913
<i>Mycosphaerella tassiana</i> (De Not.) Johanson	<i>Sphaerella argyrophylli</i> Bubák 1914
<i>Pleospora coluteicola</i> var. <i>trevoicola</i> (Speg.) Wehmeyer	<i>Pleospora mesopotamica</i> Bubák 1914
<i>Pleospora phaeocomoides</i> (Berk. & Broome) G. Winter	<i>Pleospora stelleriae</i> Bubák 1914
<i>Pleospora rudis</i> Berl. var. <i>rudis</i>	<i>Pleospora herbarum</i> var. <i>cleomes</i> Bubák 1914
	<i>Pleospora prosopidis</i> Bubák 1914
	<i>Didymosphaeria prosopidis</i> Bubák 1914
<i>Protothyrium salvadore</i> (Cooke) G. Arnaud	<i>Asterina confluens</i> Pat. 1888
Original Names Unchanged	
Not re-evaluated since	
<i>Blitridium punctum</i> Pat. 1895	
<i>Didymella culmigena</i> var. <i>cynodontis</i> Trott. 1912	
<i>Didymosphaeria leptitana</i> Trott. 1916	
<i>Didymosphaeria scrophulariae</i> Parisi 1928	
<i>Glonium guttulatum</i> Reichert 1921	
<i>Glonium salsolae</i> Reichert 1921	
<i>Guignardia alhagii</i> Bubák 1914	
<i>Hypomyces galericola</i> Henn. 1902	
<i>Leptosphaeria berenicea</i> Sacc. 1917	
<i>Melogramma cylindrosporum</i> Rabenh. 1871	
<i>Mycosphaerella engleriana</i> Reichert 1921	
<i>Phyllachora ehrenbergii</i> Reichert 1921	
<i>Pleosphaeria astragalina</i> Bubák 1914	
<i>Pleospora aegyptiaca</i> Reichert 1921	
<i>Pleospora lindaviana</i> Reichert 1921	
<i>Pleospora media</i> var. <i>ephedrinalis</i> Trott. 1916	
<i>Pleospora oligomera</i> var. <i>australis</i> Trott. 1916	
<i>Pleospora pegani</i> Bubák 1914	
<i>Pleospora rotundata</i> Reichert 1921	
<i>Protomyces cyrenaicus</i> Parisi 1927	
<i>Rosellinia australis</i> Sacc. & Trott. 1913	
<i>Rosellinia rhacodioides</i> Sacc. 1913	
<i>Sphaerella minor</i> var. <i>poterii</i> Parisi 1928	
<i>Sphaerodothis schweinfurthii</i> Reichert 1921	
<i>Terfezia boudieri</i> var. <i>arabica</i> Chatin 1892	
<i>Terfezia deflersii</i> Pat. 1894	
<i>Terfezia hafizii</i> Chatin 1892	
<i>Terfezia metaxasi</i> Chatin 1892	
<i>Trematosphaeria prominens</i> Sacc. & Trott. 1913	
	Re-evaluated since
<i>Nectria muscicola</i> Sacc. 1913	
	Excluded species
<i>Pleospora gailloniae</i> Bubák 1914	
	Accepted species
<i>Terfezia claveryi</i> Chatin 1891	

muscidolous *Nectria muscicola*. *Terfezia* is mycorrhizal, with a marked distribution in arid zones. The description of *Penicillium egyptiacum* (van Beyma, 1933) is the only one based on a living culture. It was obtained by Y.S. Sabet during his pioneer studies of the Nile Valley soil communities (Sabet, 1935, 1939). The anamorph was described inclusive of the perfect state, later renamed *Eupenicillium egyptiacum* (van Beyma) Stolk & Scott. This introduction marks the start of *in vitro* studies of soil fungi in the Middle East.

Twelve taxa are in *Pleospora*. This observation suggests its preference for dry warm areas. But such a particular proliferation may mask a problem in generic delimitations. Indeed the revision of Wehmeyer (1961) has not been generally accepted by specialists. Several decisions formulated by this author are herein critically assessed.

The present group of novelties also comprises five *Terfezias* (including one variety); three are still known only by their original scanty descriptions. The transfer of the two *Sphaerella* species to *Mycosphaerella* will necessarily be questioned since elements of this large genus are now being re-assessed (Crous, Braun & Groenewald, 2007). Four genera include two taxa each and a remaining group of 13 is represented by one each. It is obvious that all the ascomycete novelties are the result of casual discovery rather than the outcome of a survey of the group.

The two major early reports on the fungi of Irak and Syria by Bubák (1914) and of Egypt by Reichert (1921) include known organisms. Their material was gathered by the Handel-Mazzetti Expedition in the Orient or had accumulated in the Berlin Botanical Garden. They form a group of 18 taxa originating mostly from Egypt (14 species) and less so from Irak (4 species); only one is common to both countries, i.e. *Phyllachora trifolii* (Pers.) Fuckel, now *Cymadothea trifolii* (Pers.) F.A. Wolf. Bubák's report (1914) also provides protologues for 12 taxa collected in present-day Turkey. Both subgroups have also been dealt with here for an exhaustive analysis of information. Altogether, 75 ascomycetes have thus been considered.

Finally, a fair number of the pre-1940 novel mideastern ascomycetes need modern descriptions, or disclose distributions restricted to their original sites (Tab. 1). This reflects in part the absence of local initiatives for surveying this Class of Fungi in the region. The present note on such long-forgotten organisms is expected to enhance our knowledge of, and stimulate research into, the mycology of this particular arid region.

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