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<https://doi.org/10.48130/SIF-2022-0018>

Studies in Fungi 2022, 7:18

# Morphology and multigene phylogeny revealed *Peroneutypa aquilariae* sp. nov. (Diatrypaceae, Xylariales) from *Aquilaria sinensis* in Yunnan Province, China

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## Abstract

Dead twigs of *Aquilaria sinensis* (Thymelaeaceae) with fungal fruiting bodies were collected from Xishuangbanna, Yunnan Province, China. After initial morphological observations, an interesting fungus whose morphologically resembled *Peroneutypa* was isolated. Molecular phylogeny of combined ITS and tub2 showed our fungal collection is phylogenetically closely related to *P. mackenziei*. However, in morphology, our fungal collection is distinct from *P. mackenziei* in having an ostiolar canal without periphyses and the absence of paraphyses. Based on unique morphological characteristics and multigene phylogenetic analyses results, our fungal isolate is described in this paper as *Peroneutypa aquilariae* sp. nov. In addition, this is the first report of the genus *Peroneutypa* from the host *A. sinensis*. Full description, illustrations, and a phylogenetic tree to show the placement of the new species are provided. A synoptic table of morphological characteristics in *Peroneutypa* reported worldwide is also provided.

**Citation:** Du TY, Karunarathna SC, Zhang X, Dai DQ, Gao Y, et al. 2022. Morphology and multigene phylogeny revealed *Peroneutypa aquilariae* sp. nov. (Diatrypaceae, Xylariales) from *Aquilaria sinensis* in Yunnan Province, China. *Studies in Fungi* 7:18 <https://doi.org/10.48130/SIF-2022-0018>

## INTRODUCTION

Sordariomycetes O.E. Erikss. & Winka, is the second largest class in Ascomycota Caval.-Sm., characterized by unitunicate asci and are widely distributed in almost all ecosystems as endophytes, pathogens, or saprobes<sup>[1]</sup>. Hyde et al.<sup>[1]</sup>, accepted 45 orders, 167 families, 1,499 genera and 308 genera *incertae sedis* in Sordariomycetes, while in the latest outline by Wijayawardene et al.<sup>[2]</sup>, the numbers were increased to 46 orders, 184 families, 1,594 genera and 346 genera *incertae sedis*. In Sordariomycetes, there are seven subclasses viz. Diaporthomycetidae Senan., Maharachch. & K.D. Hyde, Hypocreomycetidae O.E. Erikss. & Winka, Lulworthiomycetidae Dayar., E.B.G. Jones & K.D. Hyde, Pisorisporiomycetidae Bundhun, Maharachch. & K.D. Hyde, Savoryellomycetidae Hongsanan, K.D. Hyde & Maharachch., Sordariomycetidae O.E. Erikss & Winka, and Xylariomycetidae O.E. Erikss & Winka<sup>[2]</sup>.

Xylariales Nannf. is a large order and the only order in the subclass Xylariomycetidae which was accepted by Maharachchikumbura et al.<sup>[3]</sup> and later Amphispheriales and Xylariales were accepted in Xylariomycetidae by Samarakoon et al.<sup>[4]</sup> and Hongsanan et al.<sup>[5]</sup> based on phylogenetic analyses and divergence time estimations. Later, Delonicolales R.H. Perera, Maharachch. & K.D. Hyde was introduced into Xylariomycetidae based on phylogenetic analyses by Perera et al.<sup>[6]</sup>. According to Wijayawardene et al.<sup>[2]</sup>, currently, 20 families are listed in this order.

Diatrypaceae Nitschke is one important family of higher ascomycetes that belongs to Xylariales<sup>[3]</sup>. Diatrypaceae was introduced by Nitschke<sup>[7]</sup> and is typified by *Diatrype* Fr. Diatrypaceae is characterized by perithecial black stroma, ascomata usually embedded in stroma, cylindric-clavate to clavate asci and allantoid ascospores in its sexual morph<sup>[8–12]</sup>. The asexual morph is characterized by coelomycetous; acervuli conidiomata, erumpent, with branched conidiophores, conidigenous cells in dense palisades, cylindrical with filiform conidia, curved, flattened base, blunt apex, and hyaline<sup>[1,3]</sup>. Zhu et al.<sup>[13]</sup> showed that Diatrypaceae has high diversity, and the members of this family are usually wood inhabiting fungi in China. According to Wijayawardene et al.<sup>[2]</sup>, currently, 22 genera are listed in this family.

*Peroneutypa* Berl. was introduced by Berlese<sup>[14]</sup> to accommodate *P. bellula* (Desm.) Berl., *P. corniculata* (Ehrh.) Berl and *P. heteracantha* (Sacc.), without designating the type species until Rappaz<sup>[9]</sup> designated *P. bellula* as the type species and considered *Peroneutypa* as a synonym of *Eutypella* (Nitschke) Sacc. Later, based on morphological characteristics and phylogenetic analyses of Acero et al.<sup>[15]</sup>, Carmarán et al.<sup>[16]</sup> resurrected *Peroneutypa* as an independent genus, and transferred eight species from *Eutypella* and *Echinomyces* Rappaz to *Peroneutypa* (viz: *P. alsophila* (Durieu & Mont.) Carmarán & A.I. Romero, *P. arecae* (Syd. & P. Syd.) Carmarán & A.I. Romero, *P. comosa* (Speg.) Carmarán & A.I. Romero, *P. curvispora* (Starbäck) Carmarán & A.I. Romero, *P. glricidiae*

(Rehm) Carmarán & A.I. Romero, *P. kochiana* (Rehm) Carmarán & A.I. Romero, *P. scoparia* (Schwein.) Carmarán & A.I. Romero and *P. obesa* (Syd. & P. Syd.) Carmarán & A.I. Romero). Later, based on molecular phylogenetic analyses, several studies have clarified that *Peroneutypa* is a monophyletic group in Diatrypaceae<sup>[12,16–20]</sup>. *Peroneutypa* is characterized by poorly developed ascostromata, perithecia ascomata with long prominent necks, 8-spored, clavate ascii with sessile to subsessile, and allantoid, hyaline or yellowish ascospores<sup>[11,12,16–24]</sup>. Recently, a new species (*P. polyporae* Devadatha, V.V. Sarma & E.B.G. Jones) isolated from decaying wood of *Suaeda monoica* in India was introduced by Dayaratne et al.<sup>[25]</sup>. This species has polysporous ascii which differ from the generic description (8-spored ascii), thus this information shows that *Peroneutypa* can accommodate taxa with polysporous ascii<sup>[25]</sup>. The members of *Peroneutypa* are known as saprobes or pathogens and are widely distributed in terrestrial and marine habitats<sup>[12,25–28]</sup>. Currently, 35 species are recorded in Index Fungorum<sup>[29]</sup>, with only 16 species having molecular data.

In this study, a new species, *Peroneutypa aquilariae* is introduced based on morphological characteristics and phylogenetic analyses of combined ITS and tub2 gene sequences. To our knowledge, this is the first *Peroneutypa* species from an *Aquilaria* host. In addition, a synoptic table of morphological characteristics in *Peroneutypa* is also provided.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Sample collection, morphological study, and single spore isolation

The dead twigs of *Aquilaria sinensis* with fungal fruiting bodies were collected from Xishuangbanna, Yunnan Province, China in autumn. The specimens were placed in plastic bags and brought to the mycology laboratory. Morphological structures were examined under an OPTEC SZ650 dissecting stereomicroscope. Fruiting bodies were picked up with needles, hand sectioned by razor blades and mounted on a glass slide with water. OLYMPUS optical microscope (Japan) was used to observe microscopic fungal structures and an OLYMPUS DP74 (Japan) digital camera fitted to the microscope was used to take photographs. All micromorphological structures were measured with Tarosoft® Image Framework program and photo plates were made using Adobe Photoshop CS3 Extended version 10.0 software (Adobe Systems, USA).

Senanayake et al.<sup>[30]</sup> was followed for the single spore isolation under sterile conditions. Once the spores were germinated, clear photographs were taken using the camera microscope and the germinated spores were transferred to a new potato dextrose agar (PDA) medium with a sterilized needle, and then incubated at 28 °C. Culture characteristics on PDA were observed after one month. The fresh mycelia of the fungus were used for DNA extraction.

The herbarium specimen was deposited in Kunming Institute of Botany Academia Sinica (HKAS), China, while the living

cultures were deposited in Kunming Institute of Botany Culture Collection (KUNCC), China. Facesoffungi (FoF) was registered as described in Jayasiri et al.<sup>[31]</sup>, and MycoBank number (MB) was registered as outlined in MycoBank ([www.MycoBank.org](http://www.MycoBank.org)).

### DNA extraction, PCR amplification, and sequencing

Genomic DNA was extracted from fungal mycelium (from one-month old cultures) by using Biospin Fungus Genomic DNA Extraction Kit-BSC14S1 (BioFlux®, China) following the manufacturer's instructions. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was used to amplify two gene regions using primers following Shang et al.<sup>[12]</sup> and Dayaratne et al.<sup>[25]</sup>, with some modifications (Table 1). The total volume of PCR mixtures for amplifications following Du et al.<sup>[32]</sup>, 25 µL containing 12.5 µL 2x Master Mix (mixture of Easy Taq TM DNA Polymerase, dNTPs, and optimized buffer (Beijing Trans Gen Biotech Co., Chaoyang District, Beijing, China), 8.5 µL ddH<sub>2</sub>O, 2 µL of DNA template, 1 µL of each forward and reverse primers (10 pM). Purification and sequencing of PCR products were carried out by Qinke Biotech Co., Yunnan, China.

### Phylogenetic analyses

Dissanayake et al.<sup>[35]</sup> was followed for the phylogenetic analyses. The nucleotide BLAST search in GenBank ([www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)) was used to select the most closely related taxa. The sequences of the closely related taxa to the new taxon, which were used in the phylogenetic analyses (Table 2) were obtained from GenBank based on recently published data<sup>[19,20]</sup>. Multi-gene phylogenetic analyses were carried out based on combined ITS and tub2 genes, including 82 sequences and two outgroup taxa (*Xylaria atrosphaerica* (Cooke & Massee) Callan & J.D. Rogers (AFTOL-ID 51) and *Xylaria hypoxylon* (L.) Grev. (CBS 122620)). Multiple alignments of these sequences were automatically made with MAFFT v. 7 at the web server (<http://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/server>), using default settings<sup>[36]</sup>. Automatic cutting was done in trimAl.v1.2rev59, and manually combined the multiple sequences in BioEdit v. 7.0.5.2<sup>[37]</sup>. The multiple sequences were converted using ALTER ([www.sing-group.org/ALTER/](http://www.sing-group.org/ALTER/))<sup>[38]</sup>.

Randomized Accelerated Maximum Likelihood (RAxML) and Bayesian inference analyses (BI) were carried out in the CIPRES Science Gateway ([www.phylo.org/portal2/login!input.action](http://www.phylo.org/portal2/login!input.action))<sup>[39]</sup>. The ML trees are performed via RAxML-HPC2 on XSEDE (8.2.12)<sup>[40,41]</sup> with GTR+I+G model of evolution and bootstrap supports were obtained by running 1000 pseudoreplicates. The BI tree was conducted by Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) in MrBayes (v3.2.a)<sup>[42]</sup> to evaluate posterior probabilities<sup>[43,44]</sup>, and the best model was GTR+I+G. Six simultaneous Markov chains were run for one million generations, and trees were sampled every 100<sup>th</sup> generation. The first 20% of generated trees representing the burn-in phase of the analyses were discarded and the rest were used to calculate posterior probabilities (PP). The phylogenetic tree was visualized with FigTree v1.4.2 (<http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/>)

**Table 1.** The primers and thermal cycles of PCR used in this study.

Gene/Locus	Primers (Forward/Reverse)	Thermal cycles	Reference
Internal transcribed spacers (ITS)	ITS5/ITS4	94 °C: 3 min, (94 °C: 30 s, 55 °C: 50 s, 72 °C: 90 s) × 35 cycles,	[33]
β-tubulin (tub2)	T1/Bt2b	72 °C: 10 min, final 4 °C	[34]

*Peroneutypa aquilariae* sp. nov.**Table 2.** Species, strain numbers, and GenBank accession numbers used in the phylogenetic analyses.

Species	Strain number	ITS	tub2	Reference
<i>Allocryptovalsa castanea</i>	CFCC 52427	MW632944	–	[13]
<i>Allocryptovalsa castanea</i>	CFCC 52428 <sup>T</sup>	MW632945	–	[13]
<i>Allocryptovalsa castanea</i>	CFCC 52429	MW632946	–	[13]
<i>Allocryptovalsa castaneicola</i>	CFCC 52432 <sup>T</sup>	MW632947	–	[13]
<i>Allocryptovalsa cryptovalsoidea</i>	HVFIG02 <sup>T</sup>	HQ692573	HQ692524	[34]
<i>Allocryptovalsa cryptovalsoidea</i>	HVFIG05	HQ692574	HQ692525	[34]
<i>Allocryptovalsa elaeidis</i>	MFLUCC 15-0707 <sup>T</sup>	MN308410	MN340296	[46]
<i>Allocryptovalsa polyspora</i>	MFLUCC 17-0364 <sup>T</sup>	MF959500	MG334556	[17]
<i>Allocryptovalsa rabenhorstii</i>	WA07CO	HQ692620	HQ692522	[34]
<i>Allocryptovalsa rabenhorstii</i>	WA08CB	HQ692619	HQ692523	[34]
<i>Allocryptovalsa sichuanensis</i>	HKAS 107017 <sup>T</sup>	MW240633	MW775592	[20]
<i>Allocryptovalsa truncata</i>	PUFNI 17639 <sup>T</sup>	MK990279	–	[1]
<i>Allodiatripe arengae</i>	MFLUCC 15-0713 <sup>T</sup>	MN308411	MN340297	[46]
<i>Allodiatripe elaeidicola</i>	MFLUCC 15-0737a <sup>T</sup>	MN308415	MN340299	[46]
<i>Anthostoma decipiens</i>	JL567	JN975370	JN975407	[47]
<i>Anthostoma decipiens</i>	IPV-FW349	AM399021	AM920693	Unpublished
<i>Cryptosphaeria eunomia</i>	CBS 216.87 <sup>T</sup>	KT425230	KT425165	[48]
<i>Cryptosphaeria eunomia</i>	CBS 223.87	KT425231	KT425166	[48]
<i>Cryptovalsa ampelina</i>	A001	GQ293901	GQ293972	[49]
<i>Cryptovalsa ampelina</i>	DRO101	GQ293902	GQ293982	[49]
<i>Diatrypasimilis australiensis</i>	ATCC MYA-3540 <sup>T</sup>	NR111369	–	[50]
<i>Diatype disciformis</i>	GNA14	KR605644	–	[23]
<i>Diatype disciformis</i>	MFLU 17-1549	MW240629	–	[20]
<i>Diatrypella elaeidis</i>	MFLUCC 15-0279	MN308417	MN340300	[46]
<i>Diatrypella verruciformis</i>	UCROK1467	JX144793	JX174093	[51]
<i>Eutypa lata</i>	RGA01	HQ692614	HQ692497	[34]
<i>Eutypa lata</i>	EP18	HQ692611	HQ692501	[34]
<i>Eutypa microasca</i>	BAFC: 51550 <sup>T</sup>	KF964566	KF964572	[52]
<i>Eutypa microasca</i>	BAFC: 51551	KF964565	KF964570	[52]
<i>Eutypa microasca</i>	BAFC: 51556	KF964567	KF964571	[52]
<i>Eutypella cerviculata</i>	M68	JF340269	–	[53]
<i>Eutypella semicircularis</i>	MP4669	JQ517314	–	[54]
<i>Halocryptovalsa salicorniae</i>	MFLUCC 15-0185 <sup>T</sup>	MH304410	MH370274	[25]
<i>Halodiatripe avicenniae</i>	MFLUCC 15-0953	KX573916	KX573931	[55]
<i>Halodiatripe salincola</i>	MFLUCC 15-1277	KX573915	KX573932	[55]
<i>Monosporascus cannonballus</i>	CMM3646	JX971617	–	[56]
<i>Monosporascus cannonballus</i>	ATCC 26931 <sup>T</sup>	FJ430598	–	Unpublished
<i>Neoeutypella baoshanensis</i>	HMAS:255436	MH822887	MH822888	[24]
<i>Neoeutypella baoshanensis</i>	GMBC0052	MW797106	MW814878	[57]
<i>Pedumispora rhizophorae</i>	BCC44877	KJ888853	–	[58]
<i>Pedumispora rhizophorae</i>	BCC44878	KJ888854	–	[58]
<i>Peroneutypa alsophila</i>	EL58C	AJ302467	–	[15]
<b>Peroneutypa aquilariae</b>	<b>KUNCC 22-10817<sup>T</sup></b>	<b>OP454038</b>	<b>OP572195</b>	<b>This study</b>
<b>Peroneutypa aquilariae</b>	<b>KUNCC 22-10818</b>	<b>OP482262</b>	<b>OP572196</b>	<b>This study</b>
<i>Peroneutypa comosa</i>	BAFC:393	KF964568	–	[52]
<i>Peroneutypa curvispora</i>	HUEFS 136877	KM396641	–	[11]
<i>Peroneutypa diminutiasca</i>	MFLUCC 17-2144 <sup>T</sup>	MG873479	MH316765	[18]
<i>Peroneutypa diminutispora</i>	HUEFS 192196 <sup>T</sup>	KM396647	–	[11]
<i>Peroneutypa indica</i>	NFCCI-4393	MN061368	MN431498	[25]
<i>Peroneutypa kochiana</i>	EL53M	AJ302462	–	[15]
<i>Peroneutypa kunmingensis</i>	KUMCC 21-0001 <sup>T</sup>	MZ475070	MZ490589	[19]
<i>Peroneutypa leucaenae</i>	MFLU 18-0816 <sup>T</sup>	MW240631	MW775591	[20]
<i>Peroneutypa longiasca</i>	MFLUCC 17-0371 <sup>T</sup>	MF959502	MG334558	[17]
<i>Peroneutypa mackenziei</i>	MFLUCC 16-0072 <sup>T</sup>	KY283083	KY706363	[12]
<i>Peroneutypa mangrovei</i>	PUFD526 <sup>T</sup>	MG844286	MH094409	[24]
<i>Peroneutypa polysporae</i>	NFCCI-4392	MN061367	MN431497	[25]
<i>Peroneutypa scoparia</i>	MFLUCC 11-0615	KU940152	–	[59]
<i>Peroneutypa scoparia</i>	MFLUCC 17-2143	MG873478	MH316764	[18]
<i>Quaternaria quaternata</i>	EL60C	AJ302469	–	[15]
<i>Quaternaria quaternata</i>	GNF13	KR605645	–	[23]
<i>Xylaria atrosphaerica</i>	AFTOL-ID 51	DQ491487	–	Unpublished
<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>	CBS 122620	AM993141	KX271279	[60]

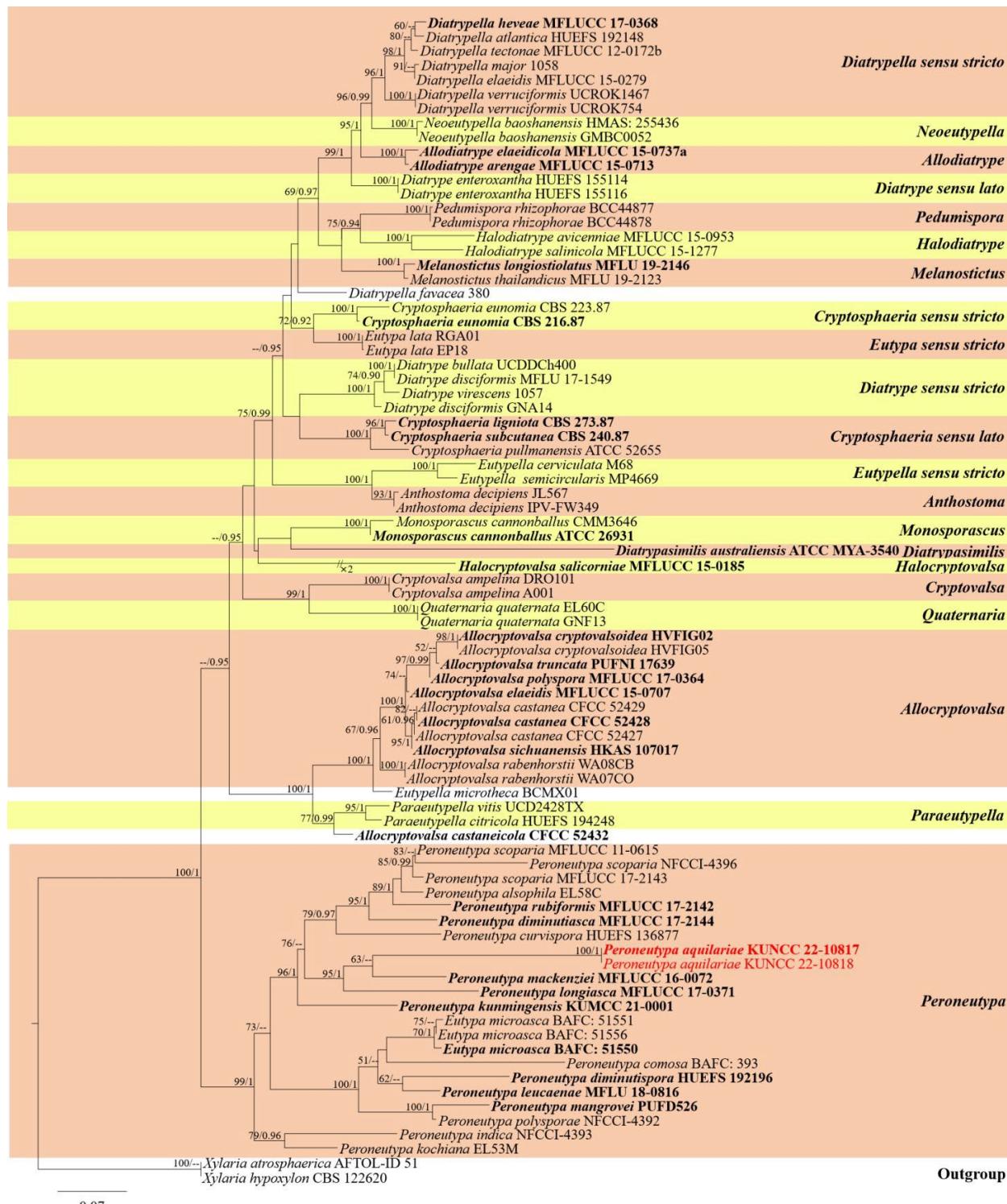
The newly generated sequences are in black bold, superscripted <sup>T</sup> indicates ex-type, and ‘–’ indicates sequence unavailable.

software/figtree/)<sup>[45]</sup>, and bootstrap values were shown at the nodes, and edited by Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2010. The newly obtained alignments and phylogenetic trees were deposited in TreeBASE (<https://treebase.org/treebase-web/user/submissionList.html>, submission ID: 29758).

## RESULTS

### Phylogenetic analyses

The phylogenetic trees obtained from RAxML and BI gave similar topologies. The RAxML analyses of the combined dataset yielded the best scoring tree (Fig. 1), with a final ML



**Fig. 1** RAxML tree of Diatrypaceae based on a combined dataset of ITS and tub2 partial sequences. Bootstrap support values for maximum likelihood (ML) equal to or higher than 50% and bayesian posterior probability (BYPP) equal to or higher than 0.90 are indicated above the branches. Newly generated sequences are shown in red, while the type species are shown in bold black and red.

*Peroneutypa aquilariae* sp. nov.

optimization likelihood value of  $-20,817.822757$ . The matrix had 1,187 distinct alignment patterns, with 54.28% of undetermined characters or gaps. Parameters for the GTR+I+G model of the combined ITS and tub2 were as follows: estimated base frequencies A = 0.219035, C = 0.277925, G = 0.235904, T = 0.267137; substitution rates AC = 0.957294, AG = 2.875562, AT = 1.254222, CG = 0.889850, CT = 3.867387, GT = 1.000000; proportion of invariable sites I = 0.174656; and gamma distribution shape parameter  $\alpha$  = 0.580597.

The final RAxML tree is shown in Fig. 1, which shows that *Peroneutypa* is a monophyletic group in Diatrypaceae, and *Peroneutypa aquilariae* is well separated from other strains in *Peroneutypa*. *Peroneutypa mackenziei* Q.J. Shang, Phook. & K.D. Hyde (MFLUCC 16-0072) is phylogenetically closely related to *P. aquilariae*. In addition, strains of *Eutypa microasca* E. Grassi & Carmarán are grouped within *Peroneutypa* (Fig. 1).

**Taxonomy***Peroneutypa aquilariae* T.Y. Du & Tibpromma, sp. nov. Fig. 2

Mycobank number: MB845438; Facesoffungi number: FoF12744

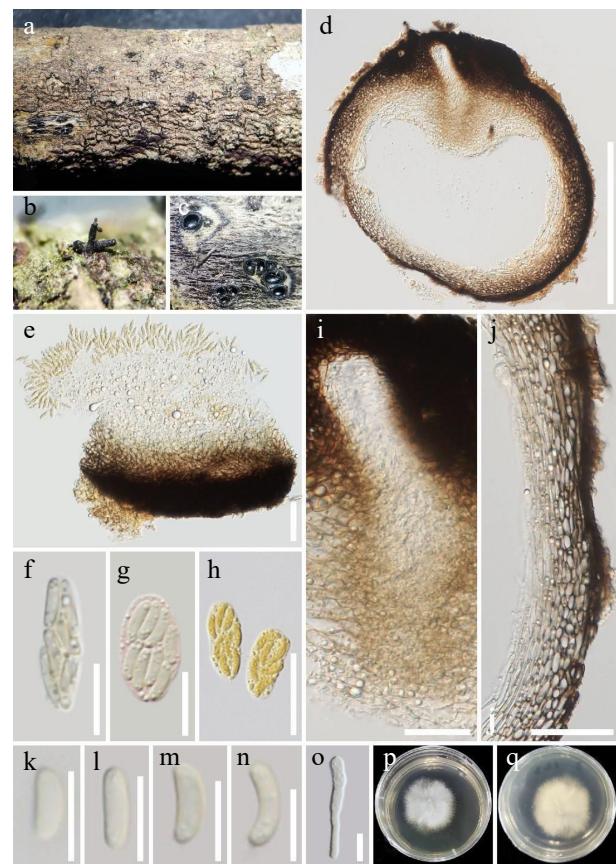
**Etymology:** named after the host genus, *Aquilaria*.

**Saprobic** on dead twigs of *Aquilaria sinensis* (Thymelaeaceae). Sexual morph: *Ascostromata* 0.5–1.5 mm wide, well-developed interior, solitary to gregarious, mostly solitary, immersed, long ostiolar canal raised through host tissue, black, irregular in shape, arranged irregularly, 1–6 locules. *Ascomata* (excluding necks) 300–570  $\mu\text{m}$  diam., perithecial, immersed in ascostromata, subglobose to globose, dark brown to black. *Ostiolar canal* 20–40  $\mu\text{m}$  wide, without periphysis, filled with hyaline cells, with 200–300  $\mu\text{m}$  long, cylindrical, straight, dark-brown to black necks. *Peridium* 35–70  $\mu\text{m}$  wide, composed of outer layer thick-walled, dark brown to pale brown cells of *textura angularis*, and inner layer thin-walled, hyaline cells of *textura prismatica*. *Paraphyses* absent. *Asci* 15–20  $\times$  5–7  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $\bar{x} = 18 \times 6 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $n = 20$ ), unitunicate, 8-spored, clavate to cylindrical, thin-walled, short pedicellate or non-pedicellate, apically rounded to truncate with indistinct J-apical ring. *Ascospores* (5–)5.5–7(–7.5)  $\times$  (1.6–)1.8–2.2  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $\bar{x} = 6 \times 2 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $n = 30$ ), overlapping 1–3-seriate, hyaline to pale yellow, oblong to allantoid, slightly curved, aseptate, smooth-walled, with granules, ascospores turn yellow after being stained by Melzer's reagent. Asexual morph: Undetermined.

Culture characteristics: Ascospores germinated on PDA within 24 h at a constant temperature incubator (28 °C). Colonies on PDA reaching 6 cm diam., after one week at 28 °C, mycelium white, flossy, circular with entire edge, with filiform margin. After one month, mycelium becomes white to light yellow from above and light brown to brown from below.

Material examined: China, Yunnan Province, Xishuangbanna, on dead twigs of *Aquilaria sinensis* (Thymelaeaceae), 15 September 2021, Tianye Du, YNA3 (holotype, HKAS 124185; ex-type cultures, KUNCC 22-10817 = KUNCC 22-10818).

Notes: The BLASTn search of ITS sequences of our strains is 87.67% similar to *P. mackenziei* (MFLUCC 16-0072, NR\_154363). In the present phylogenetic analyses, our strains formed a sister branch with *P. mackenziei* (MFLUCC 16-0072) with a low bootstrap support (63% ML). However, they differ in morphological characteristics i.e. stromata of *P. aquilariae* have well-developed interior, ostiolar canal without periphysis, peridium inner layer comprises of 3–5 hyaline cell layers of *textura prismatica*, and



**Fig. 2** *Peroneutypa aquilariae* (HKAS 124185, holotype). (a)–(c) Appearance of ascomata on the substrate. (d) Section through an ascoma. (e)–(h) Ascospores stained with Congo red reagent, (h) ascospores stained with Melzer's reagent. (i) Ostiole. (j) Peridium. (k)–(o) Ascospores. (o) A germinating ascospore. (p), (q) Colony on PDA medium (after 7 d in culture). Scale bars: (d) = 300  $\mu\text{m}$ , (e), (j) = 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , (f), (g) = 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , (h) = 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , (i) = 30  $\mu\text{m}$ , (k)–(o) = 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

paraphyses absent; while *P. mackenziei* has poorly developed interior stromata, ostiolar canal periphysate, peridium inner layer comprises 8–10 hyaline cell layers of *textura angularis*, and hamathecium is composed of paraphyses<sup>[12]</sup>. Furthermore, a comparison of ITS nucleotides between *P. aquilariae* and *P. mackenziei* (MFLUCC 16-0072) resulted in 13.8% differences (67/487 bp, without gaps), and 54.1% differences (173/320 bp, without gaps) respectively in tub2. Based on both morphological characteristics and multigene phylogenetic analyses results, we introduce *Peroneutypa aquilariae* as a distinct new species and this is the first report of *Peroneutypa* from *Aquilaria sinensis*. We also provide information about countries, hosts, and a comparison of morphological characteristics of *Peroneutypa* in Table 3.

**DISCUSSION**

The updated phylogenetic tree of this study shows that *Peroneutypa* is a monophyletic genus, with *E. microasca* strains clustered within *Peroneutypa*, and this also is consistent with the previous research results of de Almeida et al.<sup>[11]</sup>, Senwanna et al.<sup>[17]</sup>, and Phukhamsakda et al.<sup>[19]</sup>. Senwanna et al.<sup>[17]</sup> considered that *E. microasca* should be listed under *Peroneutypa*. Though we agree with them, fresh specimens of *E.*

**Table 3.** Morphological characteristics, host, and location information of *Peroneutypa* species.

Species	Ascostromata	Ascomata	Ostiolar canal	Peridium	Paraphyses	Asci	Ascospores	Countries	Hosts	References
<i>P. alisophila</i>	Slightly or well-developed, less than 1 mm long	N/A	Necks not prominent	N/A	N/A	Apical apparatus J <sub>+</sub>	N/A	Argelia, France	<i>Athrocnemum fruticosum</i>	[15,16]
<b><i>P. aquilariae</i></b>	<b>Slightly or well-developed, 0.5–1.5 mm wide, necks)</b> <b>1–6 locules</b>	<b>300–570 µm (excluding necks)</b>	<b>With 200–300 µm long necks; 20–40 wide µm wide, without periphysis</b>	<b>35–70 µm</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>18.3 × 5.8 µm, short pedicellate or non-pedicellate, J-apical ring, apically rounded to truncate</b>	<b>6.3 × 2 µm, hyaline to pale yellow, oblong to allantoid</b>	<b>China</b>	<b><i>Aquilaria sinensis</i></b>	<b>This study</b>
<i>P. bellula</i>	Immersed, scattered	Globose	Long necks	N/A	N/A	Minimum, 5–6-spored, hyaline granules	Oblong, with granules	N/A	<i>Arundo donax</i>	[61]
<i>P. coffeeae</i>	450–900 × 350–650 µm	N/A	700–1,500 × 80–100 µm	20–25 µm wide	N/A	23–25 × 4–5 µm, pedicellate	4.5–6 × 1–1.5 µm, allantoid	Central African Republic	<i>Coffea robusta</i>	[62]
<i>P. conosha</i>	Slightly or well-developed	N/A	Necks very long, over 1 mm, prominent	N/A	N/A	Apical apparatus J <sub>+</sub> /J <sub>-</sub>	N/A	Argentina	<i>Celtis tala</i>	[16,52]
<i>P. corniculata</i>	Multi-ascoma	N/A	Prominent	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	America	<i>Prunus melanocarpa</i>	[9,63]
<i>P. curvispora</i>	Poorly-developed, 0.6–3 mm wide, 22 ascomata per stroma	300–700 µm wide	400–800 µm long, prominent	N/A	Absent	9–16.5 × 4–6 µm, long pedicellate, apex truncate	3–5 × 1–2 µm, allantoid, strongly curved	Brazil	Unidentified wood	[11]
<i>P. cylindrica</i>	3–4 mm, 8–10 locules	1 mm	1–2.5 mm long	N/A	Absent	10–20 × 4–5, clavate, pedicellate curved	4–5 × 2, hyaline, allantoid, strongly curved	South Africa	Unidentified wood	[64]
<i>P. cypheloides</i> <i>P. diminutiasca</i>	1–3 mm	300 µm	1–2 mm long	N/A	N/A	15 × 4–5 µm	4 × 1 µm, allantoid	Philippines	<i>Streblus asper</i>	[65]
	With poorly-developed interior, (excluding necks)	147–218 µm	193 × 48 µm wide, long neck, periphysate	15–32 µm wide	4–7 µm wide, dense, septate	22 × 4 µm, long	4.2 × 1.7 µm, hyaline to pale yellowish, allantoid	Thailand	Unidentified wood	[18]
<i>P. diminitispora</i>	Absent or with poorly-developed, isolated or in groups of up to seven	400–700 µm	200–400 µm long	N/A	Absent	apically rounded to truncate	Long pedicellate, with a J-apical rings, apex truncate	Brazil	Unidentified wood	[11]
<i>P. discriminis</i>	1 mm	200 µm	1 mm long	N/A	N/A	Long pedicellate, with a J-apical rings, apex truncate	5–6 × 1.5–2 µm	India, Philippines	<i>Ficus racemosa</i> , <i>Macaranga tanarius</i> , <i>Streblus asper</i>	[65]
<i>P. exigua</i>	N/A	N/A	500–700 µm long	N/A	N/A	11–16 × 3–6 µm (sporiferous part)	3–3.5 × 1–1.5 µm	Brazil	<i>Citrus aurantium</i>	[66]
<i>P. gliricidiae</i>	Interior of the stroma not developed	N/A	Necks not prominent	N/A	N/A	10–16 µm, J <sub>+</sub>	Allantoid	Philippines	<i>Gliricidia sepium</i>	[16]
<i>P. heteracanthoides</i>	N/A	300 µm	N/A	N/A	Absent	16 × 3.5 µm	3–4 × 1 µm, allantoid, hyaline, with granules	Singapore	<i>Cassiae</i> sp., <i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>	[67]
<i>P. indica</i>	Well-developed	375 × 202 µm	100–250 µm wide, with moderate neck 100–350 µm long, periphysate	15–35 µm wide	1–2 µm	42 × 3.5 µm, short pedicellate, apically rounded to truncate, with a J-apical ring	5.5 × 1.3 µm, hyaline, straight to allantoid, light brown in mass	India	<i>Suaeda monoica</i>	[25]

(to be continued)

**Table 3.** (continued)

Species	Ascostromata	Ostcomata	Ostiolar canal	Peridium	Paraphyses	Asci	Ascospores	Countries	Hosts	References
<i>P. iranica</i>	0.5–2 mm, 3–16 locules	300–500 µm	40–120 µm, periphysate Necks not prominent	30–55 µm wide N/A	Septate, hyaline N/A	13.5 × 3.6 µm, with a J+ apical ring 18–28 µm long, J+ Allantoid	3.6 × 1 µm, hyaline, allantoid	Iran	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	[68]
<i>P. kochiana</i>	Interior of the stroma not developed	N/A		1–1.2 mm long	N/A			Russia, Spain	<i>Atriplex halimus</i>	[15,16]
<i>P. komonoensis</i>	N/A	250–450 × 200–350 µm						French Equatorial Africa	<i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>	[69]
<i>P. kunningensis</i>	Absent or with poorly-developed interior	260 × 317 µm (excluding neck)	140 × 100 µm wide, long neck, periphysate	30–60 µm wide	Septate, hyaline	26 × 4.1 µm, straight or slight curved, hyaline, long pedicel up to 16 µm, with a J+ apical ring	3–4 × 1–1.5 µm, hyaline to pale grey, oblong to allantoid	China	Unidentified wood	[19]
<i>P. leucaeae</i>	N/A	655 × 525 µm	275–350 µm long neck, periphysate	22–43 µm wide	3.2–7 µm wide, wider at the base, long, septate,	33 × 4.2 µm, pedicel 17–27 µm long, J+ apical ring	Yellowish-brown, ellipsoidal to cylindrical or elongate-allantoid	Thailand	<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	[20]
<i>P. lignicola</i>	609–685 µm high, 1,196–1,246 µm, 4–6 locules	448–662 × 355–445 µm	Long neck	62–92 µm wide	N/A	16 × 6 µm, sessile, hyaline	6 × 2 µm, elongate-allantoid, straight to slightly curved	Thailand	On decaying wood Submerged in a freshwater stream	[28]
<i>P. longiasca</i>	N/A	180–450 × 170–390 µm	20–50 µm wide, 190–440 µm long	14–47 µm wide	N/A	Short to long pedicellate, apically rounded to truncate with indistinct J– subapical ring	5.8 × 2 µm, hyaline, oblong to allantoid	Thailand	<i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>	[17]
<i>P. mackenziei</i>	With poorly-developed interior, 1.2–2.2 mm wide, multi-ascoma	466 × 356 µm	265 × 100 µm, ostiolar canal with long neck, periphysate	45–65 µm wide	2.5–4.5 µm wide, dense, filamentous, aseptate, hyaline	17.7 × 4.2 µm, sessile, apically rounded to truncate, with a J+ apical ring	5.6 × 1.6 µm, subhyaline to pale yellowish, elongate allantoid	Thailand	Unidentified wood	[12]
<i>P. macroceras</i>	600–1,500 × 500–650 µm	N/A	1,500–2,500 × 100–120 µm	N/A	N/A	30–35 × 4–4.5 µm, long pedicellate	4–5 × 1.2–1.5 µm, allantoid	Central African Republic	<i>Coffea robusta</i>	[62]
<i>P. macrorostrata</i>	1,500–2,000 × 350–500 µm	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25–30 × 4–5 µm, pedicellate	4–6 × 1.5–2 µm, allantoid	French Equatorial Africa	<i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>	[69]
<i>P. mangrovei</i>	Absent or poorly-developed, up to four in groups	375 × 202 µm	50–85 µm wide, with moderate neck length 100–350 µm, periphysate	15–35 µm wide	1–2 µm wide, septate, longer than asci	17 × 3.5 µm, short pedicellate, apically rounded to truncate, with a J+ apical ring	Hyaline to pale yellow, straight to allantoid	India	<i>Avicennia marina</i>	[24]
<i>P. multistromata</i>	400–900 × 200–700 µm	270–450 × 200–300 µm	N/A	N/A	Absent	30–40 × 3–5 µm, (sporiferous part: 14–18 µm) long pedicellate, 8-spored	3–4 × 0.75–1 µm, hyaline, allantoid	Côte d'Ivoire	<i>Coffea canephora</i>	[70]

(to be continued)

Table 3. (continued)

Species	Ascostromata	Ostromata	Ostiolar canal	Peridium	Paraphyses	Asci	Ascospores	Countries	Hosts	References
<i>P. obesa</i>	Slightly or well-developed, spiny or bristly appearance to the stromatic surface, black line present	N/A	Necks prominent	N/A	N/A	N/A	3–7 µm long, strongly curved	Argentina, Zaire	Unidentified wood	[16]
<i>P. perseae</i>	500–700 × 300–500 µm, 5–6 locules	300–600 × 150–200 µm	N/A	N/A	Absent	18–26 × 4–6.5 µm, 8-spored, hyaline	5–6 × 1.5–2 µm, hyaline	Morocco	<i>Persea americana</i>	[71]
<i>P. philippinum</i>	2–3 locules	200 µm	300–1000 µm long	N/A	N/A	15 × 4–5 µm	4 × 1.5 µm, allantoid	Philippines	<i>Treblus asper</i>	[65]
<i>P. polymorpha</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	113 × 60 µm, periphysate	N/A	N/A	N/A	Côte d'Ivoire	<i>Manihot esculenta</i>	[72]
<i>P. polysporae</i>	N/A	286 × 223 µm	15–50 µm wide	N/A	Septate, hyaline	113 × 12 µm, polysporous	9 × 1.8 µm, hyaline	India	<i>Suaeda monoica</i>	[25]
<i>P. rubiformis</i>	With poorly-developed interior, 1–1.4 mm wide, 1–10 locules	109 × 159 µm (excluding necks)	176 × 52 µm, roundish, prominent ostioles in the centre, rubus-like or star-like in shape, periphysate	20–25 µm wide	7–11 µm wide, septate, hyaline	50 × 5 µm, short pedicellate, apically rounded to truncate, with a J-subapical ring	4.3 × 1.6 µm, hyaline to pale yellowish, elongate-allantoid	Thailand	Unidentified wood	[18]
<i>P. scoparia</i>	Not developed or with poorly-developed interior, 1–2 mm wide, 4–8 locules	256 × 266 µm	441 × 105 µm, long necks, prominent, periphysate	20–35 µm wide	Septate, hyaline	22 × 4.5 µm, long pedicellate, apically rounded to truncate, with a J-subapical ring	4.1 × 1.5 µm, oblong to allantoid, sometimes slightly curved	Argentina, Chile, Czech Republic, France, Iran, Italy, Paraguay, Sweden, Thailand	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> , <i>Actinidia deliciosa</i> , <i>Avicennia marina</i> , bamboo culms, <i>Gleditsia</i> sp., <i>Juglans regia</i> , <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> , <i>Vachinium corymbosum</i>	[16, 18, 25, 59]
<i>P. variabilis</i>	N/A	400–500 µm	700–2500 × 100–200 µm	N/A	N/A	12–18 × 3 µm (sporiferous part), tapering pedicel	3–5 × 1.5–2 µm, greenish-hyaline, cylindric, curved	Sri Lanka	Unidentified herbaceous	[73]

Host and location information of taxa extracted from the listed references and Farr & Rossman<sup>[74]</sup>. The symbol "N/A" denotes no information available or not mentioned in given papers, and the new species is in bold.

*Peroneutypa aquilariae* sp. nov.

*microasca* need to be recollected in the future and transferred to *Peroneutypa* based on the evidence of morphological comparison and phylogenetic analyses.

Previous studies have reported that it is difficult to distinguish the members of Diatrypaceae by morphology, and many taxa still lack molecular data, which undoubtedly make the classification of Diatrypaceae more difficult<sup>[1,17,18]</sup>. There are similar difficulties in *Peroneutypa*. At present, 35 species of *Peroneutypa* are listed, and only 16 of them have molecular data (Tables 2 & 3). In particular, *P. lignicola* Z.L. Luo, K.D. Hyde & H.Y. Su (MFLUCC 14-0040) was not included in the phylogenetic analyses of this study as this species has no ITS and tub2 gene sequences, and therefore, more fresh samples need to be collected in the future in order to supplement the known species with molecular data.

In *Peroneutypa*, currently, only ten species have tub2 gene sequences. The nucleotide fragments were compared and the results showed that the tub2 sequences of the ten species were quite different. Even among different strains (MFLUCC 17-2143 and NFCCI-4396) of the same species *P. scoparia*, 9% nucleotide differences (31/344 bp, without gaps) were observed. This may lead to the long branches of most species of this genus in the phylogenetic trees. The reason for the large difference in tub2 sequence might be due to the fact that different primers were selected in different strains, viz. using primers Bt2a/Bt2b: *P. indica* Devadatha, V.V. Sarma & E.B.G. Jones (NFCCI-4393), *P. mackenziei* (MFLUCC 16-0072), *P. mangrovei* Devadatha & V.V. Sarma (PUFD526), *P. polysporae* (NFCCI-4392), and *P. scoparia* (MFLUCC 17-2143); using primers T1/Bt2b: *P. diminutiasca* Q.J. Shang, Phukhamsak & K.D. Hyde (MFLUCC 17-2144), *P. kunmingensis* (KUMCC 21-0001), *P. longiasca* Senwanna, Phookamsak & K.D. Hyde (MFLUCC 17-0371), *P. rubiformis* Q.J. Shang, Phukhamsak & K.D. Hyde (MFLUCC 17-2142), and *P. scoparia* (NFCCI-4396); and using primers T1/T22: *P. leucaenae* (MFLU 18-0816). On the other hand, we suppose the difference of tub2 might be the unique characteristics of this genus, thus the tub2 gene can be used as a good marker in phylogeny. However, this study suggests that researchers working on this genus should use the same tub2 primers for PCR amplification.

In this study, no asexual morph of the new taxon was observed, but in Shang et al.<sup>[18]</sup>, the asexual types of *P. rubiformis* and *P. scoparia* were made in photo plates and descriptions, with the main characteristics of pycnidial conidiomata, cylindrical conidiogenous cells, with holoblastic and hyaline conidia lunate to filiform, or fusiform, curved at the upper part, flattened at the base and blunt apex. The discovery of the asexual morph will be useful in the taxonomic identification of *Peroneutypa* in the future.

Our new species is associated with the genus *Aquilaria*, which belongs to Thymelaeaceae and is famous for producing agarwood<sup>[32,75,76]</sup>. Agarwood is very expensive and has a wide range of uses worldwide<sup>[76]</sup>. At present, the production mechanism of agarwood is not clear, but fungi are considered to be involved in producing agarwood<sup>[77,78]</sup>. Therefore, it is necessary to study the fungi associated with agarwood, including the saprophytic fungi. Saprophytic fungi associated with *Aquilaria* are poorly studied and this study reports the first *Peroneutypa* species from an *Aquilaria* host. In the future, more fresh samples need to be collected for in-depth research on the fungal diversity of *Aquilaria*.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This research was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. NSFC 31760013, 31950410558, 32260004), and High-Level Talent Recruitment Plan of Yunnan Provinces ('Young Talents' Program). Tian-Ye Du thanks Mae Fah Luang University for the award of fee-less scholarship. Ausana Mapook thanks the Mae Fah Luang University Fund (Grant No. 651A16029), entitled 'Taxonomy, phylogeny, risk assessment, and potential impact of fungi on Siam weed in northern Thailand'. Shaun Pennycook is thanked for his assistance in selecting a species epithet for the new species.

## Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

## Dates

Received 28 November 2022; Accepted 30 November 2022;  
Published online 22 December 2022

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