Fungi from palms. XXXVIII. The genera Mycosphaerella and Sphaerella

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Fröhlich, J. and K. D. Hyde (1998). Fungi from palms. XXXVIII. The genera *Mycosphaerella* and *Sphaerella*. – Sydowia 50(2): 171–181.

Species in the genera Mycosphaerella and Sphaerella which have been described from palms are reviewed in this paper. Mycosphaerella cocoes comb. nov. and Mycosphaerella serrulata are retained and illustrated. Mycosphaerella chamaeropis, Mycosphaerella palmae and Mycosphaerella palmicola are also accepted and discussed. Several other species are either synonymous with these species or with Mycosphaerella tassiana. The remaining species are doubtful or have been disposed in other genera.

Key words: Mycosphaerellaceae, Palmae, taxonomy.

Mycosphaerella Johan. contains approximately 500 species. The genus is cosmopolitan and associated with diseases on a wide variety of hosts (Tomlin, 1979: Hawksworth & al., 1995). It was introduced to accommodate species of Sphaeria Haller (nom. rej.) which had been placed in the subgenus Sphaerella Fr. on the basis of their immersed, inconspicuous ascomata (Corlett, 1988). Mycosphaerella species have small, roughly globose ascomata which may be erumpent or immersed in the host tissue. Their asci are bitunicate, oblong, elongate, ovoid, saccate or occasionally clavate, and are arranged in fascicles (Hanlin, 1990). Pseudoparaphyses are absent, although pseudoparenchymatous, cellular remnants may be present (Barr, 1987). The ascospores are two-celled with a central, or nearly central septum, they are usually hyaline, sometimes becoming pale brown, and variable in shape (fusiform, oblong, obovate or elongate). The ascospore wall is smooth or occasionally roughened with age and sometimes surrounded with a thin sheath (Hanlin, 1990). Mycosphaerella has an unusually diverse array of anamorphs including members of the Hyphomycetes (Cercoseptoria Petr., Cercospora Fresen., Cercosporella Sacc., Cladosporium Link, Ovularia Sacc., Passalora Fr., Polythrincium Kunze and Ramularia Sacc.) and the Coelomycetes (Ascochuta Lib., Phloeospora Wallr., Phoma Sacc., and Septoria Sacc.) (Hawksworth & al., 1995).

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The subgenus *Sphaerella* has been elevated to generic level twice, but both *Sphaerella* (Fr.) Rabenh. and *Sphaerella* Ces. & De Not. are now considered to be synonyms of *Mycosphaerella* (Corlett, 1988; Hawksworth & al., 1995). A very large number of *Mycosphaerella* and *Sphaerella* names can be found in the literature, but a world monograph of the genus is still lacking (Tomlin, 1979).

Mycosphaerella is placed in the Mycosphaerellaceae by Hawksworth & al. (1995), or Dothideaceae by Barr (1987), which she includes in the Dothideales. Barr (1987) provides a key to the Dothideaceae which separates Mycosphaerella from similar taxa (such as Dothidea Fr., Scleropleella Höhn. and Sphaerulina Sacc.) on the basis of its uniloculate ascomata without a surrounding stroma and its two-celled ascospores. Another genus likely to be confused with Mycosphaerella is Didymella Sacc. (Dothideales inc. sed.). Didymella species have broader, more constricted ascospores, a parallel arrangement of asci, obvious pseudoparaphyses, larger ascomata and different anamorphs (Hyde & Fröhlich, 1995). The species of Mycosphaerella and Sphaerella described from palms are treated below and presented in Tab. 1.

Tab. 1. Comparison of species of Mycosphaerella on palms.

Species	Ascus (µm)	Ascospores (µm)	Palm host
Mycosphaerella cocoes	30-40 × 10-13	$10-15 \times 3-4.5$	Calamus, Cocos, Mauritia
Mycosphaerella chamaeropis	$40-50 \times 15-18$	1825×45	Chamaerops
Mycosphaerella palmae	4550×17	3035×45	Unnamed
Mycosphaerella palmicola	95137×12.520	$27.5 40 \times 5 7.5$	Cocos
$My cosphaerella\ serrulata$	3340×67.5	810×2.5	Acrocomia, Cocos, Maximiliana, Sabal
$My cosphaerella\ tassiana$	5055×15	1518×56	Washingtonia

Taxonomy

Key to Myscosphaerella species from palms

1. As cospores less than 18 μ m long
2. Ascospores 8–10 \times 2.5 μm
3. As cospores 10–15 × 3–4.5 µm M. cocoes 3. As cospores 15–18 × 5–6 µm M. tassiana
4. As cospores 18–25 × 4–5 µm, on Chamaeropsis M. chamaeropis 4. As cospores longer than 27 µm 5

- 5. Ascospores $27.5-40 \times 5-7.5 \mu m$, on Cocos M. palmicola

Notes on accepted species of Mycosphaerella described from palms

- Mycosphaerella cocoes (Rehm) J. Fröhl. & K. D. Hyde, comb. nov. Figs. 1–11.
- ≡ Sphaerella bambusae Pat. var. cocoes Rehm, Hedwigia 40, 110. 1901.
- = Sphaerella frenumbensis Speg., Revista Museo de La Plata 15 (ser. 2, vol. 2), 19. 1908.
- = Mycosphaerella frenumbensis (Speg.), M. Barros & Garcia de Orta, Estudios Agronomicos 1, 33. 1973.

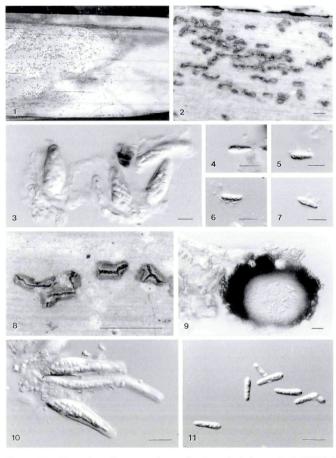
Leaf spot on frond ca 6×1 cm, brown at margin, silvery within, dotted with small, black, ascomata (Figs. 1, 2, 8). – Ascomata 47–88 μm wide, $6\,2-1\,13$ μm high, immersed, spherical, with a central, periphysate ostiole (Fig. 9). – Peridium 17–23 μm thick, composed of 5 layers of irregular cells, 46 μm in diam., with thin, dark brown walls. – Pseudoparaphyses absent. – Asci 30–51 $\times 7.5-13$ μm , 8-spored, obclavate, pedicellate and bitunicate (Figs. 3, 10). – Ascospores $10-15\times 3-4.5$ μm , 2–3-seriate, cylindric-clavate, unequally bicelled (upper cell larger), hyaline, not constricted at the septum and surrounded by a thin mucilaginous sheath (Figs. 4–7, 11).

Known palm hosts. - Calamus, Cocos, Mauritia.

Known distribution. – Brazil, Ecuador, Hong Kong, Indonesia (East Timor).

Material examined. – BRAZIL, on leaves of Cocos sp., H. Bresl., E. Ule, 1185 (S, holotype of Sphaerella bambusae var. cocoes). – Sao Paulo, Frenumbe, on wilted pinnae of palm, Usteri 46 (LPS 6343, holotype of Sphaerella frenumbensis). – ECUADOR, Oriente, Reserva de Produccion Faunistica Cuyabeno (Cuyabeno Reserve), Rio Cayabeno, forest near the Laguna Grande, Canangucho, Path A, in leaf spot of otherwise healthy frond blade of Mauritia flexuosa, Aug. 1993, J. Fröhlich (HKU(M) JF156). – HONG KONG, Hong Kong Island, Tai Tam, Tai Tam Country Park, in leaf spot of otherwise healthy frond blade of Calamus thysanolepis, June 1993, J. Fröhlich & K. D. Hyde (HKU(M) JF25). – Hong Kong Island, Aberdeen, Aberdeen Country Park (Old Wood), in leaf spot on otherwise healthy frond blade of Calamus tetradactylus, Aug. 1994, J. R. Fellowes (HKU(M) JF421).

A review of *Mycosphaerella* and *Sphaerella* species found associated with palms facilitated the identification of two collections of *Sphaerella bambusae* var. *cocoes* (here renamed *Mycosphaerella cocoes*) from palm hosts in Hong Kong. These collections were identical in ascomal, ascus and ascospore morphology to the type (Tab. 2).



Figs. 1–11. – Mycosphaerella cocoes, three collections, the holotype (1–7), HKU(M) JF 25 (9) and HKU(M) JF 156 (8, 10, 11). – 1. Diseased leaf tissue spotted with ascomata. – 2, 8. Appearance of fungus on host surface. – 3. Asci. 4–7. Ascospores. – 9. Vertical section through an ascoma. – 10. Asci. – 11. Ascospores. – Scale bars: 1,8 = 1 mm, 2 = 100 μ m, 3–7, 9–11 = 10 μ m.

This species is not Mycosphaerella bambusae Pat. which has narrower ascospores (11–13 × 2–2.5 μ m) and a bamboo host (Patouillard & Gaillard, 1888). This is the second report of M. cocoes in South America, but the first in Hong Kong. Both Calamus and Mauritia are new hosts for the taxon.

Sphaerella frenumbensis is also considered conspecific as it has similar sized asci $(34-50\times10-12~\mu m)$ and ascospores $(13-15\times3.5-4~\mu m)$. It was not possible to locate material of Mycosphaerella braheae or Sphaerella sabilidis. The protologues of these taxa (Siemaszko, 1923) are similar to Mycosphaerella bambusae and they may be the same species.

Tab. 2. Comparison of *Mycosphaerella cocoes* collections with the type (measurements made from the holotype).

Taxa	Ascus (μm)	Ascospore (µm)
HKU(M)JF 25	$3851 \times 7.511.5$	$11.5 15 \times 3 4.5$
HKU(M)JF 156	3544×1014	$10.5 – 14 \times 3 – 4$
Sphaerella bambusae var. cocoes (holotype)	3040×1013	1113×34

- Mycosphaerella chamaeropis (Traverso) Tomilin, Opredelitel' gribov roda Mycosphaerella Johans 56. 1979.
- ≡ Sphaerella chamaeropis Traverso, Malpighia 15, 8 1901.

Known palm host. - Chamaerops.

Known distribution. - Italy, Russia.

 ${\tt Type.-ITALY,}$ Cadenabbia, Norella, on living leaves of ${\it Chamaerops\; humilis}$ (not seen).

This was accepted as a species of <code>Mycosphaerella</code> by Tomilin (1979) and is reported to have asci which are $40–50\times15–18~\mu m$ and ascospores which are $18–25\times4–5~\mu m$. We have been unable to locate type material.

- Mycosphaerella palmae Miles, Illinois Academy of Science Papers on Botany 10, 252. 1917.
- ≡ Sphaerella palmae (Miles) Trotter, Sylloge Fungorum 24, 881. 1928.

Known palm host. - Unnamed Palm.

Known distribution. - Puerto Rico.

 ${\rm Typ\,e.-PUERTO}$ RICO, Guanica, on leaves of unnamed palm, 1912/13, F. L. Stevens 2107 (not seen).

It has not been possible to obtain type material. Ascospores are reported to be $30-35\times4-5~\mu m$ and fusoid and this species is associated with small, oval leaf spots, which may be long and narrow, on an unnamed palm (Miles, 1917).

 Mycosphaerella palmicola Chaudhury & P. N. Rao, Mycopathologia et Mycologia Applicata 22, 221. 1964.

Known palm host. - Cocos.

Known distribution. – Australia, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea

Type. – INDIA, Bangalore, on living leaves of *Cocos nucifera*, 15 June 1963, Vaidehi. OUB 169.

This species is redescribed by Hyde & Fröhlich (1995). Asci are $95-137\times12.5-20~\mu m$ and ascospores are $27.5-40\times5-7.5~\mu m$. This is a common taxon associated with leaf spots of *Cocos nucifera* in Australia (Hyde & Fröhlich, 1995).

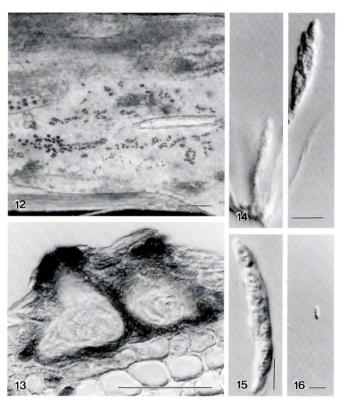
- 5. **Mycosphaerella serrulata** (Ellis & Everh.) Diehl in Weiss, Plant Disease Reporter 26, 296. 1942. Figs. 12–16.
- ≡ Sphaerella serrulata Ellis & Everh., Journal of Mycology 3, 45. 1887.
- ≡ Laestadia serrulata (Ellis & Everh.) Sacc., Sylloge Fungorum 9, 586. 1891.

Ascomata appearing as minute black dots on dead palm stems (Fig. 12); in section immersed, spherical, 100–135 μm wide, 62–70 μm high, with a central, periphysate ostiole (Fig. 13). – Peridium up to 15 μm thick composed of several layers of compressed brown walled cells (Fig. 13). – Pseudoparaphyses absent. – Asci 33–40×6–7.5 μm , 8-spored, obclavate, pedicellate and bitunicate (Figs. 14, 15). – Ascospores 8–10×2.5 μm , cylindrical, hyaline, 2–3-seriate, not constricted at the septum (Fig. 16).

Known palm hosts. – Acrocomia, Cocos, Maximiliana, Sabal. Known distribution. – Brazil, Indonesia (East Timor), Jamaica, Tahiti, U.S.A. (Florida), Venezuala.

Type. – U.S.A., Florida, on dead petioles and leaves of *Sabal serrulata*, Jan. 1887, W. W. Calkins (NY, holotype of *Sphaerella serrulata*).

Mycosphaerella serrulata has the smallest ascospores of any Mycosphaerella species known from palms. Sphaerella gastonis is reported to have asci which are $40\times10~\mu m$ and ascospores which are $7-8\times2-3~\mu m$ (Corlett, 1991), while in Sphaerella zonata asci are $22-25\times6~\mu m$, and ascospores are $7-9\times2.5~\mu m$ (Corlett, 1991). Asci in Mycosphaerella acrocomicola are reported to be $13.5-50\times5-7~\mu m$ and ascospores $7-10\times2-3.5~\mu m$ (Batista, 1954). Sydow (1930) reports



Figs. 12–16. – Mycosphaerella serrulata (from holotype). – 12. Appearance of ascomata on host surface. – 13. Vertical section through ascomata. – 14, 15. Asci. – 16. Ascospore. – Scale bars: 12 = 1 mm, 13 = 100 µm, 14–16 = 10 µm.

asci in <code>Mycosphaerella</code> advena to be 32–40×7–9 µm and ascospores to be 7–10×2.5–3 µm. These species with small ascospores may be conspecific.

- Mycosphaerella tassiana (De Not.) Johan., Öfvers. Förh. Kongl. Svenska Vetersk. – Akad. 41, 167. 1884.
- = Sphaerella washingtoniae Rehm, Annales Mycologici 9, 364. 1911.
- = Mycosphaerella washingtoniae (Rehm) Trotter, Sylloge Fungorum 24, 881. 1928.

For other synonyms see Arx (1949).

Known palm host. - Washingtonia. Known distribution. - U.S.A. (California).

Type. – U.S.A.: California, Los Angeles, Claremont, on Washingtonia brachypoda, C. F. Baker & Metz 5388 (S, holotype).

This species forms brown leaf spots on Washingtonia brachypoda. Asci are $57-65\times17-20~\mu m$ and ascospores are $15-19\times5-6~\mu m$ (Rehm, 1911). M. washingtoniae is considered a synonym of M. tassiana by Arx (1949).

Excluded, misplaced or poorly known species

Mycosphaerella advena Syd., Annales Mycologici 28, 82. 1930.

Type. – VENEZUELA, Puerto la Cruz, on living leaves of palm (Maximiliana), 25 Dec. 1927, H. Sydow 174b (type not seen).

We have been unable to locate type material of this species, which may be synonymous with *Mycosphaerella serrulata*.

Mycosphaerella acrocomiicola Bat., Anais da Reuniao Anual da Sociedade Botânica do Brasil 5, 116. 1954.

Type. - BRAZIL, Recife, Afogados, on living leaves of Acrocomia intumescens Drude, 20 May 1953, A. Tenorio 4505 (URM, holotype, not seen).

We have been unable to obtain type material of this species, which may be synonymous with *Mucosphaerella serrulata*.

Mycosphaerella braheae Siemaszko, Acta Soc. Bot. Polon. 1, 1. 1923.

 ${\rm Ty}\,{\rm p}\,{\rm e}.$ – RUSSIA, Georgia, Adzaria, Batum, on leaves of $Brahea\ edulis,$ Sep. 1917, G. Woronow (type, not seen).

We have been unable to obtain type material of this species, which may be synonymous with *Mycosphaerella cocoes*.

Frondispora bicalcarata (Ces.) K. D. Hyde, Sydowia 45, 208. 1993.

- ≡ Sphaerella bicalcarata Ces., Hedwigia 11, 181. 1872.
- $\equiv Diaporthe\ bicalcarata$ (Ces.) Niessl, Verhandlungen Naturforschender Verein in Bruenn 14, 169. 1876.
- ≡ Ceriospora bicalcarata (Ces.) Sacc., Sylloge Fungorum 2, 186. 1883.
- ≡ Ceriosporella bicalcarata (Ces.) Berlese, Icones Fungorum 1,121. 1894.

Laestadia cocophila (Cooke) Sacc., Sylloge Fungorum 1, 431. 1882. ≡ Sphaerella cocophila Cooke, Grevillea 5, 102. 1877.

Material examined. – GUIANA, Demerara, on leaves of *Cocos nucifera*, 1885 (K, holotype of *Sphaerella cocophila*).

Material examined by Hyde (1995) is immature.

Oxydothis elaeidis (Beeli) Sivan., Transactions of the British Mycological Society 54, 496. 1970.

- \equiv Sphaerellaela
eidis Beeli, Revue de Zoologie Africaine II(2), Supplement Botanique B
10. 1923.
- ≡ Mycosphaerella elaeidis (Beeli) Hendr., Publications Institut National pour l'Étude Agronomique du Congo Belge. Serie Scientifique 35, 7. 1948.

Sphaerella gastonis Sacc., Revue Mycologie 7, 58. 1885.

- = Mycosphaerella gastonis (Sacc.) Lindau in Engler & Prantl, Natürliche Pflanzenf. 1, 426, 1897.
- = Mycosphaerella gastonis (Sacc.) M. Barros & Garcia de Orta Estudios Agronomicos 1, 32 & 34. 1973, a superfluous synonym.

 ${
m Typ\,e.}$ – TAHITI, on leaves of ${\it Cocos\ nucifera}$, G. Brunaud (type of ${\it Sphaerella\ gastonis}$, not seen).

We have been unable to locate the type of this species. It may be an earlier name for *Mycosphaerella serrulata*.

Oxydothis sabalensis (Cooke) Petr., Sydowia 6, 403. 1952.

= Sphaerella incisa Ellis & G. Martin, Journal of Mycology 1, 99, 1885.

Type. – U.S.A., Florida, Green Cove Springs, on dead petioles of *Sabal serrulata*, Winter of 1885, G. Martin (not at NY).

This species does not appear to have been studied since its introduction by Ellis & Martin (1885) and we have been unable to locate type material. Ascomata are reported as being depressed-globose and forming under a blackened region, asci are $100-120 \times 8-10$ µm, and ascospores are $40-50 \times 3-4$ µm, fusiform, and attenuated to a bristle-like point at each end (Ellis & Martin, 1885). This is probably a species of *Oxydothis Penz*. & Sacc., and is likely to be a synonym of *Oxydothis sabalensis* (Cooke) Petr.

Sphaerella sabilidis Sousa da Câmara [as *sabalidis*], Boletin de Agricultura 2, 20. 1936.

= Mycosphaerella sabalis (Sousa da Câmara) Cash [as sabalidis], Sylloge Fungorum 26, 351. 1972.

Type. – PORTUGAL, Olisipponis Polytechnic, Botanical Gardens, on bark of branch of *Sabal palmetto*, Mar. 1934, S. Teixeira (type of *Sphaerella sabilidis*, not seen).

We have been unable to locate type material of this species, which may be synonymous with *Mycosphaerella cocoës*.

Sphaerella sabaligena Ellis & Everh., Journal of Mycology 2, 101. 1886.

Material examined. – U.S.A., Louisiana, Pointe a la Hache, on dead tips of leaves of *Sabal palmetto*, Apr 1886, Langlois 426 (NY, holotype).

This species has brown fusiform 3-septate ascospores and is not a *Mycosphaerella*. It may be a *Phaeosphaeria* I. Miyake.

Sphaerella zonata Ellis & Everh., J. Inst. Jamaica 1, 285. 1893.

Type. – JAMAICA, near Montego Bay, Catherine Hall Estate, on coconut palm, F. A. Sinclair 69 (type not seen).

We have been unable to locate type material of this species, which may be synonymous with *Mycosphaerella serrulata*.

Acknowledgments

Jane Fröhlich would like to thank The University of Hong Kong for the award of a postgraduate studentship. A. Y. P. Lee and H. Leung are thanked for technical assistance. T. K. Goh and W. H. Ho are thanked for their presubmission reviews.

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(Manuscript accepted 15th May 1998)

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: Sydowia

Jahr/Year: 1998

Band/Volume: 50

Autor(en)/Author(s): Fröhlich Jane, Hyde Kevin D.

Artikel/Article: Fungi from palms. XXXVIII. The genera Mycosphaerella and

<u>Sphaerella. 171-181</u>