Teichospora and the Teichosporaceae

Walter M. Jaklitsch1,2 · Ibai Olariaga3 · Hermann Voglmayr2

Abstract A multigene analysis of a combined ITS, LSU, SSU, rpb2 and tefl sequence data matrix was applied to infer the phylogenetic position of the genus Teichospora in the Pleosporales, based on isolates from freshly collected material of the generic type T. trabicola and several additional species. Phylogenetic analyses revealed that Misturatosphaeria and Floricola are synonyms of Teichospora. All species of these genera and several species recently described in the genus Curreya belong to Teichospora and are thus combined in this genus. Also, Melanomma radicans and Ramusculicola thailandica are combined in Teichospora. The new name Teichospora parva is established for Misturatosphaeria minima. Three new species, T. melanommoides, T. pusilla and T. rubriostiolata, are described, and an expanded description of T. mariae is given. The family Teichosporaceae is currently confined to Teichospora, which can be phylogenetically clearly separated from Lophiostoma, the type genus of the Lophiostomataceae. The family name Floricolaceae is a synonym of Teichosporaceae. All species described here form apically free paraphyses among immature asci. This finding contradicts the current general dogma that apically free paraphyses are absent in the Pleosporales and questions the wide use of the term pseudoparaphysis.

Keywords Ascomycota · Cucurbitaria · Phylogenetic analysis · Pleosporales · Strickeria · Teichosporella

Introduction

In the Pleosporales, sexual morphs with brown muriform ascospores are particularly difficult to classify. The types of many genera have not been recollected and sequenced, and several new genera have been described without sufficient knowledge of the limits of existing genera. Particularly important in this respect are species-rich genera. One of these is Teichospora, for which Index Fungorum lists 267 epithets. Many were combined in other genera such as Chaetoplea, Cucurbitaria, Pleospora, Strickeria and others (Barr 1990; see also links to Species Fungorum in Index Fungorum under Teichospora). In foregoing papers, we have determined the phylogenetic position of the generic types of Cucurbitaria (Doilm et al. 2013) and Strickeria (Jaklitsch et al. 2016). The latter belongs to the Xylariales and is thus unavailable for dothideomycetous fungi. However, 467 names are listed in Cucurbitaria, and 197 epithets in Strickeria, making clear that substantial efforts are still needed for species reclassification. In this paper, we provide the basis for the classification of Teichospora and the Teichosporaceae.Fuckel (1870) typified his genus Teichospora with T. trabicola. In the protologue of this species he gave the
detailed information that the fungus occurs on poles in vineyards, the habitat where we primarily collected *Teichospora*. Since then, most wooden poles have been replaced by metal ones, but some are still made of wood. In Fuckel’s original area, these are now made of chemically treated coniferous wood, on which only lichens occur abundantly, and poles of *Robinia pseudoacacia*. Poles of the latter host, standing and lying on the ground, were examined for pyrenomycetous fungi and four species of *Teichospora* were found on them. The results are comparable with those obtained from poles in vineyards present around Vienna, Austria.

In the family Teichosporaceae, Barr (2002) assembled an apparently heterogeneous group of genera, which she separated from her earlier circumscribed Dacampiaceae (Barr 1987) on the basis of different trophic states (saprobic vs. lichenicolous in *Dacampia*), peridium and ascus structure. Apart from the type genus *Teichospora*, she placed the genera *Bertiella*, *Byssonothecium*, *Chaetomastia*, *Immotthia*, *Loculohypoxylon*, *Moristroma*, and *Sinodidymella* in the Teichosporaceae. *Moristroma* was referred to the Chaetothyriomycetidae by Norden et al. (2005), *Byssonothecium* to the Massarinaceae (Schoch et al. 2009) and *Bertiella* to the Melanommataceae (Mugambi and Huhndorf 2009), but none of the remaining genera including *Teichospora* has been sequenced, and thus their phylogenetic position is unknown. Here, we redescribe the generic type of *Teichospora*, *T. trabicola*, and cement its phylogenetic position.

During preparation of our manuscript, Thambugala et al. (2015) published an account of the Lophiostomataceae, in which they proposed the new family Floricolaceae containing *Misturatosphaeria* and seven newly segregated small genera. Here, we synonymise Floricolaceae with Teichosporaceae and all newly introduced genera with *Teichospora*, based on arguments that include molecular phylogenetic considerations and morphology.

**Materials and methods**

**Isolates and specimens**

All newly prepared isolates used in this study originated from ascospores of fresh specimens. Numbers of strains including NCBI GenBank accession numbers of gene sequences used to compute the phylogenetic trees are listed in Table 1. Strain acronyms other than those of official culture collections are used throughout this work primarily as strain identifiers. Representative isolates have been deposited at the CBS-KNAW Fungal Biodiversity Centre, Utrecht, The Netherlands (CBS). Details of the specimens used for morphological investigations are listed in the Taxonomy section under the respective descriptions. Herbarium acronyms are according to Thiers (2015). Specimens have been deposited in the Herbarium of the Institute of Botany, University of Vienna (WU).

**Culture preparation, growth rate determination and phenotype analysis**

Cultures were prepared and maintained as described previously (Jaklitsch 2009). Microscopic observations were made in tap water except where noted. Morphological analyses of microscopic characters were carried out as described earlier (Jaklitsch 2009). Methods of microscopy included stereomicroscopy using a Nikon SMZ 1500 and Nomarski differential interference contrast (DIC) using the compound microscope Nikon Eclipse E600. Images and data were gathered using a Nikon Coolpix 4500 or a Nikon DS-U2 digital camera and measured with NIS-Elements D v.3.0. Measurements are reported as maximum and minimum in parentheses and the mean plus and minus the standard deviation of a number of measurements given in parentheses.

**DNA extraction and sequencing methods**

The extraction of genomic DNA was performed as reported previously (Voglmayr and Jaklitsch 2011; Jaklitsch et al. 2012) using the DNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). The following loci were amplified and sequenced: the complete internally transcribed spacer region (ITS1-5.8S-ITS2) and a c.900-bp fragment of the large subunit nuclear ribosomal DNA (nLSU rDNA), amplified and sequenced as a single fragment with primers V9G (de Hoog and Gerrits van den Ende 1998) and LR5 (Vilgalys and Hester 1990); a c.1.2-kb fragment of the RNA polymerase II subunit 2 (*rpb2*) with primers *frPB2-5f* and *frPB2-7cr* (Liu et al. 1999); and a c.1.3-kb fragment of the translation elongation factor 1-alpha (*tef1*) with primers *EF1-728F* (Carbone and Kohn 1999) and *TEF1ILLRev* (Jaklitsch et al. 2005). PCR products were purified using an enzymatic PCR cleanup (Werle et al. 1994) as described in Voglmayr and Jaklitsch (2008). DNA was cycle-sequenced using the ABI PRISM Big Dye Terminator Cycle Sequencing Ready Reaction Kit v.3.1 (Applied Biosystems, Warrington, UK) with the same primers as in PCR. In addition, the primers ITS4 (White et al. 1990) and LR3 (Vilgalys and Hester 1990) were used for the ITS-28S region. Sequencing was performed with an automated DNA sequencer (3730xl Genetic Analyzer; Applied Biosystems).

**Analysis of sequence data**

For phylogenetic analyses, a combined matrix of ITS-LSU, SSU, *rpb2* and *tef1* sequences was produced. According to the results of GenBank nucleotide BLAST searches, the available GenBank sequences of *Curreya*, *Floricola* and *Misturatosphaeria* were aligned with the sequences of the current study. According to
| Taxon                         | Strain/specimen | ITS    | LSU          | SSU          | rpb2          | tef1          |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Biatriospora marina          | CY 1228         | GQ925848 | GQ925835    | GU479823     | GU479848      |               |
| Byssosphaeria jamaicana      | SMH 1403        | GU385152 | GU385157     | GU327746     |               |               |
| Byssosphaeria rhodomphala    | GKM L153N       | GU385157 | GU327747     |               |               |               |
| Byssosphaeria salebrosa      | SMH 2387        | GU385162 | GU327750     |               |               |               |
| Byssosphaeria schiedermayeriana | GKM 1197   | GU385161 | GU327751     |               |               |               |
| Byssosphaeria villosa        | GKM 204N        | GU385151 | GU327755     |               |               |               |
| Decaisnella formosa          | BCC 25617       | GQ925847 | GQ925834     | GU479824     | GU479850      |               |
| Halothia posidoniana         | BBH 22481       | GU479786 | GU479752     |               |               |               |
| Herpotrichia diffusa         | CBS 250.62      | DQ678071 | GU301833     | DQ782383     | DQ782386      | DQ782387      |
| Herpotrichia juniperi        | CBS 200.31      | DQ678080 | DQ782383     | DQ782386     | DQ782387      | DQ782387      |
| Herpotrichia macrotricha     | GKM 196N        | GU385176 | GU327755     |               |               |               |
| Lophiostoma arundinis        | CBS 621.86      | AJ496633 | GU301833     | GU296163     | GU371791      |               |
| Lophiostoma compressum       | KT 534          | JN942962 | JN941379     | JN941376     | JN993492      |               |
| Lophiostoma crenatum         | CBS 629.86      | DQ678069 | DQ678017     | DQ677965     | DQ677912      |               |
| Lophiostoma fuckelii         | CBS 101952      | DQ399531 | FJ795496     | FJ795472     |               |               |
| Lophiostoma macrostomoides   | CBS 123097      | FJ795439 | FJ795482     | FJ795458     | GR456277      |               |
| Lophiostoma macrostomum      | KT 508          | JN942961 | AB619010     | AB618691     | JN993491      |               |
| Lophiostoma quadriplicateum  | GKM 1233        | GU385184 | GU327760     |               |               |               |
| Lophiostoma sagittiforme     | HHUF 29754      | NR_119393 | NG_042319    | AB618693     |               |               |
| Lophiostoma scabridisporum   | BCC 22835       | GQ925844 | GQ925831     | GU479830     | GU479857      |               |
| Lophiostoma trisepatum       | SMH 5287        | GU385187 | GU327760     |               |               |               |
| Mauritiana rhizophorae       | BCC 28866       | GU371824 | GU371832     |               |               |               |
| Melanomma pulvis-pyria       | CBS 124080      | GU456323 | GU456302     | GU456350     | GU456265      |               |
| Monotosporella tuberculata   | CBS 256.84      | GU301851 | GU301851     |               |               |               |
| Preussia funiculata          | CBS 659.74      | GU301864 | GU296167     | GU371799     | GU349032      |               |
| Preussia lignicola           | CBS 264.69      | GU301872 | GU296197     | GU371765     | GU349027      |               |
| Preussia minima              | CBS 524.50      | DQ678056 | DQ678003     | DQ677950     | DQ677897      |               |
| Preussia terricola           | DAOM 230091     | NG_027612 | AY544726     | DQ708985     | DQ71063       |               |
| Prosthennium betulinum       | CBS 279.74      | DQ678078 | DQ678027     | DQ677976     | DQ677923      |               |
| Roussella hysteroides        | KT 1651         | AB524621 | AB524480     | AB539101     | AB539114      |               |
| Roussella pustulans          | KT 1709         | AB524623 | AB524482     | AB539103     | AB539116      |               |
| Roussellopsis tosaensis      | KT 1659         | AB524625 | AB524484     | AB539104     | AB539117      |               |
| Teichospora acaciae          | CPC 24801       | KR611877 | KR611898     |               |               |               |
| Teichospora aurantiacinata   | GKM 1238        | GU385173 | GU385174     |               |               |               |
| Teichospora aurantiacinata   | GKM 1280        | GU385174 | GU327762     |               |               |               |
| Teichospora austroafricaica  | CBS 119330      | EU552115 | GU327762     |               |               |               |
| Teichospora claviformis      | GKM 1210        | GU385212 | GU385211     |               |               |               |
| Teichospora cruciformis      | SMH 5151        | GU385211 | GU385211     |               |               |               |
| Teichospora grandicita       | CPC 1852        | JN712456 | JN712520     |               |               |               |
| Teichospora grandicita       | CPC 1853        | JN712457 | JN712521     |               |               |               |
| Teichospora kenyensis        | GKM 1195        | GU385194 | GU327766     |               |               |               |
| Teichospora kenyensis        | GKM 194N        | GU385188 | GU327765     |               |               |               |
| Teichospora kenyensis        | GKM 234N        | GU385188 | GU327766     |               |               |               |
| Teichospora kenysenensis     | GKM L100Na      | GU385189 | GU327766     |               |               |               |
the tree topology of Hyde et al. (2013), GenBank sequences of selected Biatriosporaceae, Halothiaceae, Lophiomataceae, Melanommataceae, Pleomassicariaceae, Rousoellaceae and Sporormiaceae (Table 1) were included to reveal the phylogenetic relationships of the Teichospora clade and to root the trees. All alignments were produced with the server version of MAFFT (www.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/mafft), checked and refined using BioEdit v.7.0.4.1 (Hall 1999). For phylogenetic analyses, all sequence alignments were combined. The final matrix contained 2072 nucleotide characters from the ITS-LSU rDNA, 2326 from the SSU rDNA, 1038 from rpb2 and 1356 from tef1.

Maximum parsimony (MP) analysis of the combined matrix was performed with PAUP v.4.0a142 (Swofford 2002) using 1000 replicates of heuristic search with random addition of sequences and subsequent TBR branch swapping (MULTREES option in effect, steepest descent option not in effect). All molecular characters were unordered and given equal weight; analyses were performed with gaps treated as missing data; and the COLLAPSE command was set to minbrln. Bootstrap analysis with 1000 replicates was performed in the same way, but using 5 rounds of random sequence addition and subsequent TBR branch swapping during each bootstrap replicate, with each replicate limited to 1 million rearrangements.

Maximum likelihood (ML) bootstrap analyses were performed with RAxML (Stamatakis 2006) as implemented in raxmlGUI 1.3 (Silvestro and Michalak 2012), using the ML+ rapid bootstrap setting and the GTRGAMMAI substitution.
model with 1000 bootstrap replicates. The matrix was partitioned for the individual gene regions, and substitution model parameters were calculated separately for them.

Results

Molecular phylogeny

Of the 6792 nucleotide characters included in the phylogenetic analyses, 1323 are parsimony informative (390 of ITS-LSU, 107 of SSU, 490 of rpb2, 336 of tef1). The parsimony analyses revealed 72 MP trees of 5460 steps, one of which is shown in Fig. 1. Tree topologies of all MP trees are similar except for a few minor differences within Lophiostoma and a slightly different position of the Teichospora parva clade. In the phylogenetic analyses, the deeper nodes mostly lack significant support, but most families are highly supported (Fig. 1). While the Teichosporaceae are highly supported, the sister group relationship to Lophiostomataceae receives only low (MP) or insignificant (ML) support. Within the Teichosporaceae, much of the backbone also lacks significant bootstrap support, but several highly supported subclades are revealed (Fig. 1). Teichospora thailandica is sister group to all other Teichospora species with moderate (MP) or low (ML) support. Teichospora trabicola, the generic type, is contained in a highly supported clade comprising the new species T. pusilla, three species formerly placed in Curreya (C. austroafricana, C. grandiclipis, C. proteae) and T. (Misturatosphaeria) claviformis. The new species T. melanommoides and T. rubriostiolata form a moderately supported clade with T. (Misturatosphaeria) uniseriata and T. (Curreya) acaciae. Another highly supported clade contains T. cruciformis, T. mariae, T. striata, T. tennesseensis and T. viticola. The other species are dispersed throughout the tree without significant support.

Taxonomy

Teichosporaceae M.E. Barr, Mycotaxon 82: 374 (2002), emend.

Synonym. Floricolaceae Thambug., Kaz. Tanaka & K. D. Hyde, Fungal Divers. 74: 244 (2015).

Ascomata non-stromatic but sometimes surrounded or overlain by brown hyphae, immersed, erumpent to superficial, dark brown to black, perithecioid. Ostiolar necks papillate to elongate, pore rounded, inner periphysate, apex variously coloured. Peridium pseudoparenchymatous, 2–3 layered, brown. Hamathecium comprising paraphyses and pseudoparaphyses. Ascis 4–8-spored, bitunicate, fissitunicate, cylindrical to subclavate. Ascospores brown, less commonly hyaline, ellipsoid, oblong, fusoid or clavate, symmetric or asymmetric, usually septate, rarely with a gelatinous sheath. Asexual morphs coelomycetous, forming pycnidia that contain brown septate or brown, rarely hyaline non-septate conidia. Saprobic in plant material.

Teichospora Fuckel, Jb. nassau. Ver. Naturk. 23–24: 160 (1870) [1869–70].

= Floricola Kohlm. & Volkm.-Kohlm., Bot. Mar. 43: 385 (2000).

= Misturatosphaeria Mugambi & Huhndorf, Stud. Mycol. 64: 108 (2009).

= Asymmetrispora Thambug. & K.D. Hyde, Fungal Divers. 74: 247 (2015).

= Aurantiascoma Thambug. & K.D. Hyde, Fungal Divers. 74: 249 (2015).

= Magnibotryascoma Thambug. & K.D. Hyde, Fungal Divers. 74: 249 (2015).

= Neocurreya Thambug. & K.D. Hyde, Fungal Divers. 74: 250 (2015).

= Pseudomisturatosphaeria Thambug. & K.D. Hyde, Fungal Divers. 74: 251 (2015).

= Ramusculicola Thambug. & K.D. Hyde, Fungal Divers. 74: 251 (2015).

Type species: Teichospora trabicola Fuckel (designated by Fuckel 1870).

Ascomata immersed, erumpent to superficial, occurring singly or aggregated in clusters, globose to pyriform, dark brown, darkening in KOH; peridium complex, sometimes surrounded by brown hyphae penetrating into the wood; ostiolar neck distinct, circular in outline, with rounded or flat, variously coloured top; ostiole periphysate. Hamathecium of numerous septate, branching, apically free paraphyses and pseudoparaphyses. Ascis cylindrical to subclavate, bitunicate, fissitunicate, short stipitate, containing 4–8 uni- to partly biseriately arranged ascospores. Ascospores ellipsoid to clavate, brown, rarely hyaline, didymo-, phragmo- or dictyosporous, not or slightly constricted at the septa, usually smooth and without a sheath. Asexual morphs coelomycetous, pycnidial, with conidiophores reduced to conidigenous cells and brown unicellular (coniothyrium-like), rarely hyaline unicellular (apospaeria-like) or several-celled brown conidia, only known for few species. Saprobic in wood, bark or leaves.

Teichospora trabicola Fuckel, Jb. nassau. Ver. Naturk. 23–24: 161 (1870) [1869–70]. Fig. 2

Ascomata (175)230–350(397) μm diam (n = 29), (236)300–412(437) μm high (n = 21), variable in shape and size, when immersed pyriform or consisting of a small subglobose venter and a long, sometimes curved, cylindrical to conical ostiolar neck, when erumpent comprising a globose venter and a short ostiolar papilla. Peridium (30)34–61(80) μm thick (n = 32), consisting of a narrow, ill-defined, hyaline to pale brownish or olivaceous inner layer, becoming thicker...
and more distinctly cellular toward the ostiole, a dark brown \textit{textura angularis} of mostly laterally compressed, at the base isodiametric cells of \((4)5–10(13) \mu\text{m diam}(n=50)\) that become darker, thicker-walled and irregularly pigmented to the

\textit{Teichospora}, strain/culture designations are given following the taxon names. Accessions formatted in bold were sequenced in the present study. The asterisks (*) denote the nodes collapsed in the strict consensus tree of all MP trees.
outside, turning dark greyish brown in 3 % KOH; surrounded by dark brown, 2–5(6.5) μm wide hyphae fraying out and penetrating into wood, often compacted at the host surface to form a clypeus-like structure visible as a dark crust; not...
darkening in KOH. Ostioles (78)120–185(215) μm long, (56)60–106(141) μm wide at the apex (n = 17), periphysate, neck (66)90–155(205) μm wide at the apex (n = 32). Hamathecium of numerous apically free paraphyses and branched pseudoparaphyses 1–3 μm wide. Ascii arranged in basal hymenium, (80)102–129(132) × (11)12–15(16.5) μm (n = 15), cylindrical, bitunicate, fissitunicate, containing 8 (obliquely) uniseriate ascospores; endotunica narrow, swelling in 3 % KOH; stipe short, base simple. Ascospores (13.5)15.0–18.5(21.8) × (5.7)3–8.8(10.1) μm, l/w (1.7)1.9–2.3(2.8) μm (n = 150), ellipsoid to oblong, symmetrical to slightly asymmetrical, with 3(−4–5) thick, non-constricted eusepta, 1 or 2 V- or Y-septa in terminal cells and a longitudinal septum in a variable number of cells; septa thicker than the wall, subhyaline to yellowish when young, turning dark brown, turning darker to nearly black in 3 % KOH. Ostiole necks are very variable, depending on the degree of immersion in the wood. Asci are fissitunicate but remarkably stable in microscopic mounts, particularly in KOH, which is one reason for its use in microscopy. Paraphyses with free apices have been detected among young asci (also verified in the isoelectotype), suggesting that they are true paraphyses.

**Teichospora acaciae** (Crous & M.J. Wingf.) Jaklitsch & Voglmayr, comb. nov., MycoBank MB 815654

Basionym. *Curreya acaciae* Crous & M.J. Wingf., in Crous et al., Sydowia 67: 94 (2015b).

**Teichospora aurantiacinotata** (Mugambi & Huhndorf) Jaklitsch & Voglmayr, comb. nov.

MycoBank MB 815655

Basionym. *Misturatosphaeria aurantiacinotata* Mugambi & Huhndorf [as ‘aurantonotata’], Stud. Mycol. 64: 108 (2009).

**Teichospora austroafricana** (Marinc., M.J. Wingf. & Crous) Jaklitsch & Voglmayr, comb. nov.

MycoBank MB 815656

Basionym. *Curreya austroafricana* Marinc., M.J. Wingf. & Crous, in Marincowitz et al. CBS Diversity Ser. (Utrecht) 7: 37 (2008).

Syn. *Neocurreya austroafricana* (Marinc., M.J. Wingf. & Crous) Thambug. & K.D. Hyde, Fungal Divers. 74: 250 (2015).

**Teichospora claviformis** (Mugambi & Huhndorf) Jaklitsch & Voglmayr, comb. nov.

MycoBank MB 815657

Basionym. *Misturatosphaeria claviformis* Mugambi & Huhndorf, Stud. Mycol. 64: 113 (2009).

Syn. *Neocurreya claviformis* (Mugambi & Huhndorf) Thambug. & K.D. Hyde, Fungal Divers. 74: 250 (2015).

**Teichospora cruciformis** (Mugambi & Huhndorf) Jaklitsch & Voglmayr, comb. nov.

MycoBank MB 815658

Basionym. *Misturatosphaeria cruciformis* Mugambi & Huhndorf, Stud. Mycol. 64: 113 (2009).

Syn. *Pseudomisturatosphaeria cruciformis* (Mugambi & Huhndorf) Thambug. & K.D. Hyde, Fungal Divers. 74: 251 (2015).
**Teichospora grandicipis** (Joanne E. Taylor & Crous) Jaklitsch & Voglmayr, comb. nov.

MycoBank MB 815659

Basionym: *Coniothyrium grandicipis* Joanne E. Taylor & Crous, in Crous et al. CBS Diversity Ser. (Utrecht) 2: 60 (2004).

Syns. *Currella grandicipis* (Joanne E. Taylor & Crous) Joanne E. Taylor & Crous, in Crous et al. Persoonia 27: 32 (2011).

*Neocurreya grandicipis* (Joanne E. Taylor & Crous) Thambug. & K.D. Hyde, Fungal Divers. 74: 250 (2015).

**Teichospora kenyensis** (Mugambi & Huhndorf) Jaklitsch & Voglmayr, comb. nov.

MycoBank MB 815660

Basionym. *Misturatosphaeria kenyensis* Mugambi & Huhndorf, Stud. Mycol. 64: 113 (2009).

Syn. *Pseudoaurantiascoma kenyense* (Mugambi & Huhndorf) Thambug. & K.D. Hyde, Fungal Divers. 74: 250 (2015).

Notes: Mugambi and Huhndorf (2009) listed only the holotype (GKM1195) in their description, two collections (GKM1195 and GKM L100Na) are given in their figure legends, but sequences of four collections from at least two different localities were included in their molecular phylogenies. In their phylogenetic tree, two distinct highly supported clades are revealed within *T. kenyensis*, with genetic differences comparable to those between distinct species in other *Teichospora* lineages; e.g. between *T. mariae* and *T. tennesensis* (Fig. 1). Therefore, *T. kenyensis* may actually comprise two closely related species.

**Teichospora mariae** (Ying Zhang, J. Fourn. & K.D. Hyde) Jaklitsch & Voglmayr, comb. nov.

MycoBank MB 815661. Fig. 3.

Basionym. *Misturatosphaeria mariae* Ying Zhang, J. Fourn. & K.D. Hyde, Mycoscience 54: 2 (2012) [2013].

Syn. *Asymmetrispora mariae* (Ying Zhang, J. Fourn. & K.D. Hyde) Thambug. & K.D. Hyde, Fungal Divers. 74: 248 (2015).

Ascomata scattered or aggregated in small groups, immersed to erumpent with the lower third remaining immersed, subglobose to pyriform, 230–530 μm diam, 300–400 μm high; ostiolar necks distinct, 70–150 μm long, 70–142 μm wide (n = 15) at the apex, cylindrical to broadly conical, elongated when deeply immersed or reduced to a papilla when nearly superficial; top often flattened discoid and shiny black, rarely orange brown; ostiole periphysate. Peridium 30–45 μm thick at base and sides, comprising a hyaline to olivaceous inner layer of isodiametric and thin-walled, 4–8 μm wide cells, becoming thicker toward the ostiole, and a dark brown outer layer of slightly larger, up to 11.5 μm long, compressed, thick-walled cells; surrounded by dark brown, (1.5)2.5–5.7 μm wide hyphae and short terminally narrowly rounded, 1.5–3 μm wide setae at lower parts of the ascoma. Hamathecium consisting of numerous septate, apically free paraphyses and branched pseudoparaphyses, (1)1.5–3 μm wide. Ascii arranged in a basal hymenium, (78)91–114(126) × (11)11.5–14(15.5) μm (n = 12), cylindrical to oblong, rarely subclavate, bitunicate, fissitunicate, with a short stipe and simple or knob-like base, containing 8 (obliquely) uniseriate, partly biseriate or overlapping ascospores; walls narrow, endotunica swelling in 3 % KOH. Ascospores (13)15.5–19.7(21.5) × (6.2)6.8–8(9) μm, l/w (1.9)2.1–2.7(3.3) (n = 60), ovoid to clavate, lower end rounded or acute, straight, first hyaline, 1–2-celled, becoming pale to dark brown, darkening in 3 % KOH, with 3(–4–6) thick and dark transverse septa and 1 longitudinal or oblique septum in 1–3 cells and sometimes a V- or Y-septum in the upper end cell, constricted at the more or less median primary septum, smooth, without a sheath.

Asexual morph: unknown.

Ecology: In bark and wood of *Robinia pseudoacacia*.

Distribution: Europe (Austria, France, Germany).

**Materials examined:** Austria, Niederösterreich, Gumpoldskirchen, vineyards above Melkerhof, on standing vineyard poles of *Robinia pseudoacacia*, soc. *T. trabicola*, 9 Nov 2014, H. Voglmayr, W. Jaklitsch & I. Greilhuber (WU 33592; culture CBS 140732=C134m); same area, different vineyard, on vineyard poles of *Robinia pseudoacacia*, soc. *T. psutila*, 1 Mar 2015, W. Jaklitsch & H. Voglmayr (culture C140m); Wagram, Hippersdorf, on vineyard poles of *Robinia pseudoacacia*, 15 Nov 2014, W. Jaklitsch (WU 33588; culture C136); Mühlleiten, on old bark of standing *Robinia pseudoacacia*, 28 Feb 2015, H. Voglmayr (WU 33589; culture C139). Vienna, 22nd district, Lobau, near Panozzalacke, on old bark of standing *Robinia pseudoacacia*, soc. *Strickeria kochii*, 7 Mar 2015, W. Jaklitsch (WU 33590; culture C144). France, Ariège, Rimont, Las Muros, elev. ca. 470 m, on dead hanging branch of *Robinia pseudoacacia*, on decorticated rotten sapwood, ostiolar pore area orange brown, 22 May 2015, J. Fournier JF 15050. Germany, Hessen, Rheingau, Oestrich, vineyards between Kühns Mühle and Oestrich forest, on vineyard poles of *Robinia pseudoacacia*, 3 Apr 2015, W. Jaklitsch (WU 33591; culture C159).

Notes: *Teichospora mariae*, originally described by Zhang et al. (2013), is here redescribed in order to emend the morphological description. This species is common on *Robinia*, often in association with other species of *Teichospora* such as *T. psutila*, *T. trabicola* or *T. rubriostiolata*, and also with *Strickeria kochii*. Ascomata are indistinguishable from those of *T. trabicola*, but the ovoid to clavate ascospores and the ascomatal setae set it apart from this species. Furthermore, it not only occurs on vineyard poles but also in wood and bark of branches and standing trunks of *Robinia*. Remarkably, it is so far unknown from North America, the origin of its host.

**Teichospora brevirostris** (Fr.) Fuckel, which was based on *Sphaeria brevirostris* Fr. 1823, was evaluated as a putative older name for *T. mariae*. A reason for this is the description and illustration of the only species with clearly ovoid to clavate ascospores of similar size and non-collabent ascocysta by Berlese (1900, p. 50, pl. LXXI, fig. 2). There is a single specimen of *Sphaeria brevirostris* in UPS, which was distributed
as Scleromyceti Sueciae, ed. 2, no. 390 (F-118034) from 1834 on (Holm and Nannfeldt 1962). Therefore, this undated specimen is not a type specimen. Examination of this specimen showed perithecia erumpent from old wood, but no ascospores were found. Another part of this specimen from editio 2 (or editio nova), present in G (G 00111994), contains two
different species, a scolecosporous pyrenomycete and another pyrenomycete with larger ascomata only containing a few brown phragmospores. Another specimen in G (G 00111995), received by Fuckel from Rabenhorst, contains Clypeosphaeria mamillata. In effect, Sphaeria brevirostris cannot be interpreted on a sound basis and should be considered a nomen dubium. Fuckel (1870) described T. brevirostris from pine wood and Berlese (1900) presented material of Saccardo from Quercus, corroborating Fuckel’s concept of the species. Although ascospore shape and size may be similar, ascospores of this species are described as 5-septate muriform by Fuckel, and the ascospore septation shown by Berlese (1900) does not perfectly match T. mariae, which has ascospores with chiefly 3 (–4) septa. The different hosts may be further evidence for non-conspecificity, as T. mariae is so far only known from Robinia pseudoacacia on which it is common.

**Teichospora melanommoides** Jaklitsch, Friebes & Voglmayr, sp. nov.

MycoBank MB 815662. Fig. 4.

Etymology: melanommoides, referring to its similarity with species of *Melanomm*.  

Ascomata scattered or aggregated in groups of 2–4, erumpent-superficial on wood, subglobose or pyriform, (265)326–486(580) μm high, (283)323–500(585) μm diam (n=29). Peridium 30–60 μm thick, consisting of a narrow hyaline inner layer becoming thicker and more distinctly cellular toward the ostiole, and a brown outer t. angularis, of thin-walled, (2.5)4.3–9.0(11) μm wide (n=20) cells, becoming darker and thick-walled towards the outside, turning nearly black, partly olivaceous in 3 % KOH; surface with some protruding cells near thick-walled towards the outside, turning nearly black, partly periphysate. Hamathecium consisting of numerous, (1)1.5–3.5(4) μm wide, apically free paraphyses and pseudoparaphyses, septate, branched; basal part submoniliform. Ascii (107)113–135(138)×(10.3)10.5–12.5(13.7) μm (n=8), cylindrical, bitunicate, fissitunicate, with a short stipe and a knob-like base, narrow walls with endotunica swelling in 3 % KOH; containing 6–8 ascospores in (obliquely) uniseriate to partly biseriate arrangement in upper region, unstable in water. Ascospores (14.5)16.0–19.8(22.3)×(5.5)6.2–7.5(8.2) μm, l/w (2)2.3–2.9(3.2) (n=50), narrowly ellipsoid, oblong to fusoid, straight, with 1–3 eusepta, slightly constricted at all septa, medium to dark brown, darkening in 3 % KOH, end cells often conical and sometimes lighter, multiguttulate, smooth, without a sheath.

Ecology: In wood of *Salix*.

Distribution: Only known from the holotype.

Holotype: Austria, Steiermark, Bruck an der Mur, nature reserve between Pichl-Großdorf and Tragöß-Oberort, on a decorticated branch of *Salix* sp., soc. coniothyrium-like coelomycete, 25 May 2015, G. Friebes (WU 33593; culture CBS 140733 = MP5).

Notes: Based on morphology alone, *Teichospora melanommoides* would be determined as a species of *Melanomm*. The holotype specimen contains many ascomata, but most are overmature or effete; therefore, it was difficult to find intact asci for illustration, and the ascomata were not sectioned.

**Teichospora parva** Jaklitsch & Voglmayr, nom. nov.

MycoBank MB 815663

Etymology: parva, referring to the small ascomata.

Replaced synonym. *Misturatospaeria minima* Mugambi, A.N. Mill. & Huhndorf, in Mugambi & Huhndorf, Stud. Mycol. 64: 114 (2009), non *Teichospora minima* Ellis & Everh., Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad. 47: 419 (1895).

Syn. *Aurantiascoma minimum* (Mugambi, A.N. Mill. & Huhndorf) Thambug. & K.D. Hyde, Fungal Divers. 74: 249 (2015).

Notes: This species was differentiated from others in Mugambi and Huhndorf (2009) by smaller ascomata. As the epithet *minima* is already occupied by *Teichospora minima* Ellis & Everh., a new epithet was necessary.

**Teichospora proteae** (Marinc., M.J. Wingf. & Crous) Jaklitsch & Voglmayr, comb. nov.

MycoBank MB 815664

Basionym. *Curreya proteae* Marinc., M.J. Wingf. & Crous, in Marincowitz et al. CBS Diversity Ser. (Utrecht) 7: 39 (2008).

Syn. *Neocurreya proteae* (Marinc., M.J. Wingf. & Crous) Thambug. & K.D. Hyde, Fungal Divers. 74: 250 (2015).

Note: *Teichospora (Curreya) proteae* was differentiated in Marincowitz et al. (2008) by larger ascospore size ((17)18–19(22.5)×(7)8–9(11) μm) from *T. astroafricana* ([(14)14.5–16](17)×(6)7–(8)9 μm). As the ITS and LSU ex-type sequences of both species are identical, additional markers with higher resolution should be sequenced to evaluate their status as distinct species.

**Teichospora pusilla** Jaklitsch & Voglmayr, sp. nov.

MycoBank MB 815665. Fig. 5.

Etymology: *pusilla*, referring to its small ascomata and ascospores.

Ascomata scattered or aggregated in small groups, immersed in wood, globose to pyriform, (230)240–310(336) μm high, (140)155–320(372) μm diam (n=10). Peridium ca. 13–30 μm thick, consisting of a narrow hyaline inner t. angularis of thin-walled isodiametric cells and an outer t. angularis of ca. 4–14 μm wide, dark brown, thick-walled cells, turning dark greyish brown in 3 % KOH; surrounded by dark brown, 2–5 wide hyphae. Ostiolar necks distinct, papillate or short-cylindrical, apex (62)75–110(125) μm diam (n=20), rounded, appearing pulvinate on the host surface, pierced by a minute central pore. Ostioles periphysate.
Hamathecium of numerous, 1.0–3.5(4.5) μm wide, apically free paraphyses and pseudoparaphyses, septate, branched. Asci (86)88–94(95) × (11)11.2–14.5(15.5) μm (n = 5), cylindrical to subclavate, bitunicate, fissitunicate, with a short stipe and simple or knob-like base, containing 8 obliquely uniseriate ascospores. Ascospores (11.7)13.0–15.0 (16.2) × (5.7)6.3–7.5(8) μm, l/w (1.6)1.9–2.2(2.6) (n = 33), (mostly broadly) ellipsoid, straight, with 3 slightly constricted eusepta and 1 longitudinal septum in 1–3 cells, medium to dark brown, darkening in 3 % KOH, smooth, without a sheath.
Ecology: In wood of vineyard poles.

Distribution: Only known from the holotype.

Holotype: Austria, Niederösterreich, Gumpoldskirchen, vineyards above Melkerhof, on vineyard poles of *Robinia pseudoacacia*, soc. *T. mariae*, 1 Mar 2015, W. Jaklitsch & H. Voglmayr (WU 33587; culture CBS 140731 = C140).

Notes: Ostiolar necks, ascomata, asci and ascospores of *Teichospora pusilla* are considerably smaller than in *T. trabicola*. However, ascospores are similar in both species, but in *T. pusilla* ascospores have shorter end cells and thinner transverse septa, which are more regularly and more distantly inserted. Unlike *T. trabicola*, ascospores of *T. pusilla* are also slightly constricted at the septa, and V- or Y-septa are uncommon. The holotype specimen contains this fungus in small ascomatal numbers but *T. mariae* in excess, therefore the material was not sectioned in order to save material.

**Teichospora radicans** (Samuels & E. Müll.) Jaklitsch & Voglmayr, comb. nov.
MycoBank MB 815666
Basionym. *Melanomma radicans* Samuels & E. Müll., *Sydowia* 31: 147 (1979) [1978].
Syns. *Misturatosphaeria radicans* (Samuels & E. Müll.) Thambug. & K.D. Hyde, *Fungal Divers.* 74: 247 (2015).
*Misturatosphaeria uniseptata* Mugambi, A.N. Mill. & Huhndorf, in Mugambi & Huhndorf, *Stud. Mycol.* 64: 114 (2009).

**Teichospora rubriostiolata** Jaklitsch & Voglmayr, sp. nov.
MycoBank MB 815667. Fig. 6.
Etymology: *rubriostiolata*, referring to the reddish ostiolar discs.
Ascomata scattered or aggregated in groups to ca. 40, erumpent from well-decayed, sometimes reddish pigmented bark or immersed-erumpent-superficial on wood, globose, subglobose or pyriform, (300)373–450(480) μm high, (218)290–430(515) μm diam (n = 45). Peridium (33)37–52(60) μm thick (n = 34), consisting of a narrow hyaline, non-descript inner layer of small and thin-walled cells tending to be thicker toward the ostiole and a pigmented outer t. angularis with cells (5)7.5–12(14.5) × (3.7)4.7–8.0(9.3) μm (n = 20), with walls becoming thicker toward the outside, reddish brown in lactic acid and glycerol, nearly black in 3% KOH; brown, 2–5 μm wide hyphae present around ascomata at their bases, scant. Ostiolar necks distinct, papillate or short-cylindrical, apex (88)109–127(148) × (10)128(148) μm wide (n = 23), cylindrical or oblong, bitunicate, fissitunicate, with a short stipe and simple or knob-like base, walls narrow, endotunica swelling in KOH; containing (46–8)–uniseriate, less commonly partly biseriate ascospores. Asci (1417–21(25) × (5.3)6.5–8.3(9.5) μm, l/w (2.1)2.3–2.9(3.5) (n = 69), narrowly ellipsoid, oblong to subsisiood, often slightly attenuated downward, straight to slightly curved, with (1)3 eusepta, strongly constricted at the median primary septum, not or only slightly at other septa, first hyaline to pale brown, turning dark brown when mature, darkening in 3% KOH; end cells sometimes lighter, smooth, without a sheath.

Ecology: In bark and wood of trees and shrubs including vineyard poles (Ribes, Robinia, Vaccinium).

Distribution: Europe (Belgium, Germany, Norway).

Holotype: Norway, Aust-Agder, Grimstad kommune, Dømmersmoen, on twigs of Ribes sanguinea, soc. coniothyrium-like coelomycete, 5 Oct 2014, W. Jaklitsch & H. Voglmayr (WU 33594; ex-type culture CBS 140734 = TR7).

Other materials examined: Belgium, Sint-Huibrechts-Lille, Neerpelt, on twigs of Vaccinium myrtillus, 6 Feb 2014, P. Bormans PB2014010 (WU 33595; culture TR5). Germany, Hessen, Rheingau, Oestrich, vineyards between Kühns Mühle and Oestrich forest, on vineyard poles of Robinia pseudoacacia, soc. T. mariae, 3 Apr 2015, W. Jaklitsch (WU 33596; culture C158 from material with black ostioles, culture C158x from material with reddish ostioles).

Notes: Specimens of Teichospora rubriostiolata had been identified as Thyririda rubronotata. The latter differs in the presence of red to brown hyphae between ascomata, but this may vary (Chesters 1938; Wehmeyer 1941). Sometimes ostiolar apices of T. rubriostiolata may be entirely black. See more information about this and other issues regarding identification using morphology in the discussion.

Teichospora striata (Kohl. & Volk.-Kohl.) Jaklitsch & Voglmayr, comb. nov.
MycoBank MB 815668
Basionym. Floricola striata Kohlm. & Volk.-Kohl., Bot. Mag. 43: 385 (2000).

Teichospora tenesseensis (Mugambi, A.N. Mill. & Huhndorf) Jaklitsch & Voglmayr, comb. nov.
MycoBank MB 815669
Basionym. Misturatosphaeria tenesseensis Mugambi, A.N. Mill. & Huhndorf, in Mugambi & Huhndorf, Stud. Mycol. 64: 114 (2009).
Syn. Asymmetrispora tenesseensis (Mugambi, A.N. Mill. & Huhndorf) Thambug. & K.D. Hyde, Fungal Divers. 74: 248 (2015).

Teichospora thailandica (Thambug. & K.D. Hyde) Jaklitsch & Voglmayr, comb. nov.
MycoBank MB 815670
Basionym. Ramusculicola thailandica Thambug. & K.D. Hyde, Fungal Divers. 74: 251 (2015).

Teichospora uniseriata (Mugambi, A.N. Mill. & Huhndorf) Jaklitsch & Voglmayr, comb. nov.
MycoBank MB 815671
Basionym. Misturatosphaeria uniseriata Mugambi, A.N. Mill. & Huhndorf, in Mugambi & Huhndorf, Stud. Mycol. 64: 116 (2009).
Syn. Magnibotryascoma uniseriatum (Mugambi, A.N. Mill. & Huhndorf) Thambug. & K.D. Hyde, Fungal Divers. 74: 249 (2015).

Teichospora viticola (Phukhams., Camporesi & K.D. Hyde) Jaklitsch & Voglmayr, comb. nov.
MycoBank MB 815672
Basionym. Floricola viticola Phukhams., Camporesi & K.D. Hyde, in Ariyawansa et al., Fungal Divers. 75: 71 (2015).

Other species

The original account of Teichospora listed the five species Teichospora brevirostris, T. dura, T. northerri, T. obducens and T. trabicola. For T. brevirostris, see the notes under T. mariae. Teichospora dura is the generic type of Teichospora, characterised by discoid ascomata, a disaggregating upper peridium and hyaline dictyospores in clavate asc. It was assigned to the Patellariales by Barr (1981), which was refuted by Kutorga and Hawksworth (1997). No DNA data are available. Teichospora obducens (Schumach. : Fr.) Fuckel was erroneously treated as the generic type of Teichospora by von Arx and Müller (1975), but had been combined in Cucurbitaria by Petrak (1927), which was accepted by Barr (1990).

Phylogenetically, this species neither belongs to Teichospora
nor to Cucurbitaria (unpublished data). *Teichospora morthieri* was described from *Lonicera* near Neuchâtel, Switzerland. It has relatively large ascospores (32 × 11 μm) with seven transverse septa and has not been recollected recently.

Numerous other species may belong to *Teichospora*. However, DNA data are required to determine their affinities.

We have sequenced numerous fresh isolates and observed (data not shown) that many fungi of similar morphology cluster in several different families of Pleosporales. As an example, a morphologically conceived species of *Melanomma* or *Thryridaria* (having brown phragmospores) may be a member of these genera, but also of, e.g., *Teichospora*. This becomes evident only after sequencing. Therefore, it is difficult to determine which of the old names may be suitable for taxa in *Teichospora*. The use of old epithets will only be possible by collecting from the original hosts at the original places.

**Fig. 6** *Teichospora rubriostiolata*. a Ascomata (Ostioles) in face view. b Ascoma in vertical section. c, d Lateral ascomatal wall in section (c in lactic acid; d in 3 % KOH). e–i Asci (h, i in 3 % KOH). j, k, p, Asci apices (j, p in 3 % KOH. j showing free paraphysis tip; p showing swollen endotunica). l–o, q–u Ascospores (r–u in 3 % KOH). a, f, h, k–n, s, t WU 33595 (TR5); b–e, g, i, j, o, p, r, u WU 33594 (TR7); q WU 33596 (C158). Scale bars (a) 200 μm; (b) 50 μm; (c, d, g, j, n, s) 10 μm; (e, f, h, i) 15 μm; (k–m, o–r, t, u) 7 μm.
Discussion

The phylogenetic position of *Teichospora* based on its type species *T. trabicola* is here clarified. This was possible, because Fuckel, who typified his genus with this species, clearly and unequivocally indicated the habitat of *T. trabicola* as occurring on vineyard poles in the winter. Collecting in his region around Oestrich at the river Rhine in the month of April yielded this species on vineyard poles, which are made of the wood of *Robinia*. These specimens contain mostly overmature ascomata, which is in line with Fuckel’s observations that good material should be searched for in winter. Furthermore, the host species is obviously less important than the ecological parameters like exposure of old decorticated wood to a rather warm and dry climate as prevails in vineyards.

NCBI Blast searches using ITS and LSU sequences of *T. trabicola* suggested a close relationship with species of *Misturatosphaeria* and recently described species of *Curreya*, and subsequent phylogenetic analyses corroborated congenericity of these species with *T. trabicola*. *Curreya* is younger than *Teichospora*, and its generic type, *Curreya conorum*, has not been sequenced. More has been published recently on *Misturatosphaeria*, and synonymisation of *Misturatosphaeria* under *Macrodiplodiopsis* by Wijayawardene et al. (2014) was in error. In that work, *Macrodiplodiopsis* was nicely illustrated, but the chain of activities between specimen and DNA data is obviously inconsistent. This error was corrected by Crous et al. (2015a) and acknowledged by Thambugala et al. (2015) in their schematic key to genera of *Ascomycota* and for the distinction at the species level.

Evaluation of morphological characters

We generally found high intraspecific variability of several morphological traits in *Teichospora*, often even within a single specimen. Thus, several morphological characters can at best only be used for distinction at the species level, as Mugambi and Huhndorf (2009) have done. Thambugala et al. (2015), who used morphological traits for distinction at the generic level, based most of their interpretations on the descriptions by Mugambi and Huhndorf (2009) and Marincowitz et al. (2008). Mugambi and Huhndorf (2009) had based each species of *Misturatosphaeria* on a single specimen, with the exception of *M. aurantiacinotata* (two specimens), *M. minima* (four specimens), and *M. kenyensis* (morphologically on one, phylogenetically on four specimens). This may even be insufficient to estimate morphological variation at the species level.

Here, we briefly comment on some characters used by Thambugala et al. (2015) in their schematic key to genera and give some additional information and comments on other characters:

1) Numbers of ascomata: Thambugala et al. (2015) used “Ascomata solitary, or aggregated in large clusters on the host surface” versus “Ascomata solitary, or aggregated in small clusters on the host surface” for the distinction of *Misturatosphaeria* plus *Magnibotryascoma* from *Asymmetrispora* plus *Pseudomisturatosphaeria*. This cannot even be used at the species level, because such observations are simply based on the number of specimens and the method of collecting, i.e. the quality of the available specimens.

2) Position of ascomata relative to the host surface: Although Mugambi and Huhndorf (2009) described the generic type of *Misturatosphaeria*, *M. aurantiacinotata*, which they based on two specimens, with superficial ascomata, their fig. 25A also shows half-immersed, i.e. erumpent, ascomata. Our new species *Teichospora rubriostiolata* would fall phylogenetically into the “*Magnibotryascoma*” clade characterised by erumpent ascomata, but it has (erumpent to) superficial ascomata. In our experience, the position of ascomata may vary from immersed to superficial within a single specimen, in virtually all the species we studied, but also in many other ascomycetes. In this group or family, ascomata...

Springer
usually start off as being immersed and either remain immersed or become erumpent to superficial.

3) The peridium (ascostal wall): According to Barr (2002), the peridium in the Teichosporaceae is 3-layered; Thambugala et al. (2015) describe the peridium of the Floricolaceae as 2-layered. Both views have their merits. The outer, pigmented layer may be variably surrounded by brown hyphae or apically rounded setae. It consists of thick-walled dark brown compressed cells, which grade into lighter brown, thinner-walled and more isodiametric cells; the latter part corresponds to the middle layer of Barr (2002). This layer may be thin or even lacking in some species. The inner hyaline layer may be lacking at lower levels of the ascomata, but is usually present and distinctly thickened at the (near) ostiolar level.

4) Ostiolar necks: Their length (long necks used to

5) Pigmentation of ostiolar apices: Although we are using

6) Hamathecium: Apparently none of the earlier authors

7) Asci: included here for completeness. Asci of the studied

8) Ascospores: Colour, shape and septation were used to
define genera in the Floricolaceae. There is some correla-
tion of ascospore traits and phylogenetic groups in
Teichospora. As a genus may contain several species, there
must be a phylogenetic substructure and it is to be
expected that species with common traits such as ascospore
morphology or ecology form subgeneric clusters. As
other morphological characters (see above) do not provide
evidence for a separation of species at the

Orange to reddish apices occur in species of sev-
eral other genera of the Pleosporales, e.g. Byssosphaeria, Chaetoplea sensu Barr (1990), Karstenula, or Thyridaria. None of them is defined at the generic level by this morphological trait. Apart from Teichospora rubriostiolata, we have several other specimens which can be superficially identified as Thyridaria rubronotata, but molecular phylogeny places them in several unrelated families of the Pleosporales (unpublished data).
characterised by semi-immersed to partially erumpent ascomata (as also shown by their fig. 30b and c). Otherwise, hyaline didymosporic also occur in *T. kenyensis* (*Pseudourantiascoma*) and *T. parva* (*Aurantiascoma*). Fungi with hyaline didymosporic (but actually all other types of ascospores) are now distributed in several other families of the Pleosporales and orders of the Dothideomycetes, owing to molecular phylogenetic analyses.

Taking all data together, morphological characters are at present insufficient to define genera within the Teichosporaceae. However, the main basis for splitting into genera by Thambugala et al. (2015) was the subgeneric structure of *Teichospora* (syn. *Misturatosphaeria*), which calls for a discussion of molecular data and the phylogenetic tree of the Teichosporaceae.

### Evaluation of molecular phylogenetic data

Phylogenetic topologies are subject to changes. The matrix of the “Fiorificolaeae” used by Thambugala et al. (2015) to compute their phylogenetic tree is basically the same as that used by Mugambi and Huhndorf (2009), and is only augmented by sequences of three taxa recently described in *Curreya*, by *Floricola* spp. and by *Ramusiculicola thailandica*. In their tree, many nodes of the backbone receive low or insignificant support. Also, their tree is inevitably incomplete, as, for the former *Misturatosphaeria* species, it contains only sequences of LSU and *tef1* exon, i.e. markers of low variability, which commonly do not resolve well at the subgeneric level. Unfortunately, it is difficult to determine additional sequences for species described by Mugambi and Huhndorf (2009), because they did not produce cultures but extracted DNA for sequencing from ascomata on the natural specimens. If markers with higher variability such as ITS, *tef1* introns and *rpb2* were added for all taxa, the topology may change substantially, especially in the many nodes with low support, but this may also be the case when additional taxa are added. This is already evident when comparing our phylogenetic tree (Fig. 1) to the tree of Thambugala et al. (2015), which shows different topologies within *Teichosporaceae* likely due to additional taxa as well as sequences (*rpb2*) in our matrix. The addition of *Teichospora trabicola* and *T. pusilla* makes their genus *Neocurreya* paraphyletic, necessitating transfer of *Neocurreya* to *Teichospora*.

In their discussion, Thambugala et al. (2015) wrote “In this paper we introduce 20 new genera which may appear excessive. However, we have only introduced new genera that have been resolved by molecular data and that have further support from morphological data. If we consider that only a small percentage of fungi have been discovered (Hawksworth 1991) and that tropical and saprobic fungi are understudied (Hyde et al. 2010), it is not surprising that there are large numbers of undiscovered taxa”. We agree that the introduction of these genera is excessive, and we do not follow their concept. Their argument of high numbers of undiscovered fungal taxa in the context of new genera is misleading, as generic classification and circumscription have nothing to do with undescribed species biodiversity, which is the topic of Hawksworth (1991). In contrast to species which are (or at least should be) biologically defined entities, genera are artificial units which primarily enable species classification within a binomial classification frame. There is a broadly accepted consensus that genera should be based on monophyly as well as diagnostic features enabling applicable generic circumscription. However, this requires robust multi-gene phylogenies, extensive taxon sampling and thorough investigation of characters. As outlined above, three of the six important criteria of Vellinga et al. (2015) to be considered before the introduction of new fungal genera, viz. sufficient taxon coverage, strong statistical support of the phylogenetic trees and trees based on several genes, are currently not fulfilled in Teichosporaceae, which in our view precludes a persistent generic splitting. As discussed above, many of the characters used by Thambugala et al. (2015) for generic delimitation are problematic as they can be highly variable within species or even specimens. Considering all morphological and molecular phylogenetic evidence at hand, we argue for a broad generic concept to be applied in Teichosporaceae.

### Asexual morphs

The asexual morphs reported as *Coniothyrium*, *Phoma*, *Aposphaeria* and many other genera are only variants of the same principle, i.e. simple pycnidia, which do not offer many characters that may be useful for classification. As an example, *Aposphaeria* Sacc. differs from *Phoma*, which was recently split into several genera by Chen et al. (2015), according to the protologue (Saccardo 1880) in superficial papillate pycnidia. He listed *Melanomma* and *Cucurbitaria* as sexual connections. Samuels and Müller (1979) described the asexual morph of *M. radicans* from artificial culture, i.e. the character superficial versus immersed cannot be assessed, but generally this is not a good generic criterion, as is the formation of apical papillae. Furthermore, colouration of conidia may be slow in certain species, and the hyaline conidia described may turn brown. In any case, currently morphological characters do not receive much attention and genera are based on phylogenetic clades. There is obviously no problem in accepting species with different types of conidia in one genus; see, e.g., *Paracamarosporium* (Crous et al. 2015b). The occurrence of these simple morphs in various unrelated lineages of Dothideomycetes indicates that there is a general genetic potential to produce these asexual morphs of low morphological complexity, i.e. that they may be an ancestral condition or that they can easily evolve independently from the
same genetic background. Therefore, their expression in certain genera or species may bear little phylogenetic information, limiting their usability for generic delimitation. The production of minute 1-celled conidia is less energy-consuming than the formation of a complex structure, and thus they may be the principal asexual morphs, while the morph with the larger brown phragmoconidia may be a synanamorph as a result of adaptation to certain niches of the floricola-like species, where the more primitive form may have been lost during evolution.

Ecology

All species of Teichospora are saprotrophs. The majority of species, including the generic type as well as those formerly classified within Misturatospaeria, occur on old wood and bark. However, two of the four species formerly placed in Curreya (Marincowitz et al. 2008; Crous et al. 2015b), T. acaciae and T. grandiceps, are leaf-inhabiting. Teichospora (Floricola) striata was described from senescent leaves and inflorescences of Juncus roemerianus (Kohlmeyer and Volkmann-Kohlmeyer 2000), and T. (Floricola) viticola occurs on branches of Vitis (Ariyawansa et al. 2015). There is no correlation of these ecological traits with phylogenetic relationships.

Acknowledgments

Open access funding is provided by Austrian Science Fund (FWF). We thank the fungarium curators of BPI, FH, G, M, NY, UPS and W. Till at WU for sending and managing collections, P. Bormans, J. Fournier and A. Gardiennet for fresh material or/and data. The financial support by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF; project P25870-B16) is gratefully acknowledged.

Open Access

This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made.

References

Ariyawansa HA, Hyde KD, Jayasiri SC et al (2015) Fungal diversity notes 111–252—taxonomic and phylogenetic contributions to fungal taxa. Fungal Divers 75:27–274
Arx JA von, Mülter E (1975) A re-evaluation of the bitunicate ascomycetes with keys to families and genera. Stud Mycol 9:1–159
Barr ME (1981) Teichospora dura. Mycologia 73:988–992
Barr ME (1987) Podromus to class Loculoascomycetes. Amherst, Massachusetts
Barr ME (1990) Some dictyosporous genera and species of Pleosporales in North America. Mem N Y Bot Gard 62:1–92
Barr ME (2002) Teichosporaceae, another family in the Pleosporales. Mycotaxon 82:373–389
Berlese AN (1900) Icones Fungorum omnium hucusque cognitorum ad usum Syllogos Saccardiani adcommodatae II:1–216, plates 1–178. Padua; repr. 1968: Bibl Mycol 16B
Carbone I, Kohn LM (1999) A method for designing primer sets for speciation studies in filamentous ascomycetes. Mycologia 91:553–556
Chen Q, Jiang JR, Zhang GZ, Cai L, Crous PW (2015) Resolving the Phoma enigma. Stud Mycol 82:137–217
Chesters CGC (1938) Studies of British Pyrenomycetes II. A comparative study of Melanomma pulvis-pyrius, M. jucidalum and Thyridaria rubronotata. Trans Br Mycol Soc 22:116–150
Crous PW, Caris LM, Giraldo A et al (2015a) The Genera of Fungi—fixing the application of the type species of generic names—2: Allantophomopsis, Latorna, Macrodiplodiopsis, Macrothum, Milospium, Protostega, Pyricularia, Robinula, Rutula, Septoria, Torula, and Wojnowicia. IMA Fungus 6:163–198
Crous PW, Schumacher RK, Wingfield MJ et al (2015b) Fungal Systematics and Evolution: FUSE 1. Sydowia 67:81–118
de Hoog GS, Gerrits van den Ende AHG (1998) Molecular diagnostics of clinical strains of filamentous basidiomycetes. Mycoses 41:183–189
Doilom M, Liu JK, Jaklitsch WM et al (2013) An outline of the family Cucurbitariaceae. Sydowia 65:167–192
Eriksson OE (1981) The families of bitunicate ascomycetes. Opera Bot 60:1–220
Fuckel L (1870) [1869] Symbolae Mycologicae. Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Rheinischen Pilze. Jahrb Nassau Ver Natur 23–24:1–459
Hall TA (1999) BioEdit: a user-friendly biological sequence alignment editor and analysis program for Windows 95/98/NT. Nucleic Acids Symp Ser 41:95–98
Hawksworth DL (1991) The fungal dimension of biodiversity: magnitude, significance, and conservation. Mycol Res 95:641–655
Holm L, Nannfeldt JA (1962) Fries' “Scolecomyctei Sueciae”. A study on its editorial history with an annotated check-list. Friesia 7(1):10–59
Hyde KD, Abd-Elslam K, Cai L et al (2010) Morphology: still essential in a molecular world. Mycotaxon 114:439–459
Hyde KD, Jones EBG, Liu J-K et al (2013) Families of Dothideomycetes. Fungal Divers 63:1–313
Jaklitsch WM (2009) European species of Hypocrea—part I. Stud Mycol 63:1–91
Jaklitsch WM, Komon M, Kubicek CP et al (2005) Hypocrea voglmayrii sp. nov. from the Austrian Alps represents a new phylogenetic clade in Hypocrea/Trichoderma. Mycologia 97:1365–1378
Jaklitsch WM, Studler M, Voglmayr H (2012) Blue pigment in Hypocrea caeruleuscs sp. nov. and two additional new species in sect. Trichoderma. Mycologia 104:925–941
Jaklitsch WM, Fournier J, Dai DQ, Hyde KD, Voglmayr H (2015) Valarsiia and the Valarsiales. Fungal Divers 73:159–202
Jaklitsch WM, Gardiennet A, Voglmayr H (2016) Resolution of morphology-based taxonomic delusions: Acrociordiella, Basidiophasma, Blogiassciophasma, Chyophsphaeria, Hymenopelella, Lepetteupi, Pseudapisora, Requiennella, Seiridium and Strickeria. Persoonia 37:82–105
Kohlmeyer J, Volkmann-Kohlmeyer B (2000) Fungi on Juncus roemerianus 14. Three new coelomycetes, including Floricama, anam.-gen. nov. Bot Mar 43:385–392
Kutorga E, Hawksworth DL (1997) A reassessment of the genera referred to the family Patellariaceae (Ascomycota). Systema Ascomycet 15:1–110
Liu YL, Whelen S, Hall BD (1999) Phylogenetic relationships among ascomycetes: evidence from an RNA polymerase II subunit. Mol Biol Evol 16:1799–1808
Marincowitz S, Crous PW, Groenewald JZ, Wingfield MJ (2008) Microfungi occurring on the Proteaceae in the fynbos. CBS Biodivers Rev 7:1–166
Mugambi GK, Huhndorf SM (2009) Molecular phylogenetics of Pleosporales: Melanommataceae and Lophiostomataceae recircumscribed (Pleosporomycetidae, Dothideomycetes, Ascomycota). Stud Mycol 64:103–121
Nordén B, Sunhede S, Larsson E (2005) New species of Moristroma (Ascomycetes) and phylogenetic position of the genus. Mycol Prog 4:325–332

Petrak F (1927) Mykologische Notizen. IX. Ann Mycol 25:193–343

Saccardo PA (1880) Conspectus genera fungorum Italiae inferiorum nempe ad sphaeropsides, melanconieas et hypomyceetes pertinenter systemate sporologic dispositorum. Michelia 2:1–38

Samuels GJ, Müller E (1979) [1978]. Life-histories of Brazilian ascomycetes 3. Melanomma radicans sp.nov. and its Aposphaeria anamorph, Trematosphaeria perrumpens sp.nov. and Berlesiella fungorum sp.nov. and its Ramichloridium anamorph. Sydowia 31: 142–156

Schoch CL, Crous PW, Groenewald JZ et al (2009) A class-wide phylogenetic assessment of Dothideomycetes. Stud Mycol 64:1–15

Silvestro D, Michalak I (2012) raxmlGUI: a graphical front-end for RAxML. Org Divers Evol 12:335–37

Stamatakis E (2006) RAxML-VI-HPC: maximum likelihood-based phylogenetic analyses with thousands of taxa and mixed models. Bioinformatics 22:2688–2690

Swofford DL, Swofford DL (2002) PAUP* 4.0b10: phylogenetic analysis using parsimony (*and other methods). Sinauer, Sunderland

Thambugala KM, Hyde KD, Tanaka K et al (2015) Towards a natural classification and backbone tree for Lophiostomataceae, Floricolaceae, and Amorosiaceae fam. nov. Fungal Divers 74:199–266

Thiers B (2015) Index Herbariorum: a global directory of public herbaria and associated staff. New York Botanical Garden’s Virtual Herbarium. http://sweetgum.nybg.org/ih/

Vellinga EC, Kuyper TW, Ammirati J et al (2015) Six simple guidelines for introducing new genera of fungi. IMA Fungus 6:65–68

Vilgalys R, Hester M (1990) Rapid genetic identification and mapping of enzymatically amplified ribosomal DNA from several Cryptococcus species. J Bacteriol 172:4238–4246

Voglmayr H, Jaklitsch WM (2008) Prosthecium species with Stegsonsporum anamorphs on Acer. Mycol Res 112:885–905

Voglmayr H, Jaklitsch WM (2011) Molecular data reveal high host specificity in the phylogenetically isolated genus Massaria (Ascomycota, Massariaceae). Fungal Divers 46:133–170

Wehneyer LE (1941) The genus Thyridaria (Pyrenomycetes). Lloydia 4: 241–261

Werle E, Schneider C, Renner M et al (1994) Convenient single-step, one tube purification of PCR products for direct sequencing. Nucleic Acids Res 22:4354–4355

White TJ, Bruns T, Lee S, Taylor J (1990) Amplification and direct sequencing of fungal ribosomal RNA genes for phylogenies. In: Innis MA, Gelfand DH, Sninsky JJ, White TJ (eds) PCR protocols: a guide to methods and applications. Academic, San Diego, pp 315–322

Wijayawardene NN, Camporesi E, Bhat DJ et al (2014) Macrodiplodiopsis in Lophiostomataceae, Pleosporales. Phytotaxa 176:192–200

Zhang Y, Fournier J, Bahkali AH, Hyde KD (2013) Misturatosphaeria mariae sp. nov. from France, a first record of Misturatosphaeria in Europe. Mycoscience 54:106–109