



***Colletotrichum acidae* sp. nov. from northern Thailand and a new record of *C. dematium* on *Iris* sp.**

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Abstract

Colletotrichum has a wide host range and distribution and its species are pathogens, endophytes and saprobes. Investigations of *Colletotrichum* species in both tropical and temperate regions are still needed as much novelty remains to be discovered. A multi-locus phylogenetic analyses of ITS, GAPDH, CHS-1, ACT and TUB2 sequence data combined with morphology, revealed a new species, *C. acidae* on *Phyllanthus acidus*, belonging to the *C. truncatum* species complex. A new Russian record for *C. dematium* on *Iris* sp. was also revealed. A combination of sequence data handling tools in the ARB database was used for the phylogenetic analyses and is provided in the appendix. The new species is described and illustrated in this paper and compared with taxa in the *C. truncatum* species complex.

Key words – 1 new species – molecular phylogeny – saprobe – taxonomy

Introduction

Colletotrichum species (Glomerellaceae) are one of the ten economically most important fungal plant pathogens worldwide (Dean et al. 2012). They also occur as symptomless endophytes in living plants and as saprobes of dead plant material in aquatic and terrestrial habitats (Hyde et al. 2009a, Wikee et al. 2011, Cannon et al. 2012, Jayawardena et al. 2016a, Wijayawardene et al. 2017). However, the same species may show different nutritional modes based on the environmental conditions in which they occur (Jayawardena et al. 2016b).

Colletotrichum was established by Corda (1831) to accommodate *C. lineola*, the type species for this genus (Damm et al. 2009) and belongs in Glomerellaceae, Glomerellales

(Maharachchikumbura et al. 2016). Morphological identification and species delimitation in *Colletotrichum* is challenging as their sexual morphs are not often produced and the asexual morphs have few distinguishing characters (Hyde et al. 2009b, Cannon et al. 2012). This has resulted in considerable confusion concerning the species concepts (Cannon et al. 2012, Jayawardena et al. 2016b). However, Cai et al. (2009), Hyde et al. (2009b) proposed to use a combination of phylogeny, morphology, geographical and ecological information in order to resolve species boundaries in the genus. Recent studies have revealed 196 *Colletotrichum* species, of which 184 species are grouped in eleven species complexes (Jayawardena et al. 2016a, 2017, Buyck et al. 2017, Marin-Felix et al. 2017, Sharma et al. 2017, Tibpromma et al. 2017, 2018).

The plant genus *Phyllanthus* (Phyllanthaceae) comprises 750–1,200 species with a remarkable diversity. Among those, *Phyllanthus acidus* (L.) Skeels, commonly known as the Otaheite gooseberry is a popular fruit mainly distributed in Asia (Tharakan 2012). A recent study has revealed that there is a great fungal diversity, especially endophytes, on *P. acidus* (Manogaran et al. 2017). However, only a few *Colletotrichum* species have been reported from this host in Southeast Asia. Leaf anthracnose on *Phyllanthus acidus* caused by *Colletotrichum phyllanthi* was reported in India (Pai 1966, Damm et al. 2012, Sharma & Shenoy 2013). Farr & Rossman (2017) (<https://nt.ars-grin.gov/fungaldatabases/fungushost/fungushost.cfm>) list *C. gloeosporioides* from *Phyllanthus emblica* in China (Zhuang 2001) and *P. reticulatus* in Myanmar (Thaung 2008), as well as an unidentified *Colletotrichum* sp. from *P. acidus* in India (Mathur 1979).

Among the most popular garden flowers globally, the genus *Iris* (Iridaceae) comprises around 300 species which are found mainly in the north temperate region. Their aesthetic value is affected by fungal diseases making various discolorations, spots and necrotic lesions (Kowalik & Krasny 2009). Several *Colletotrichum* species, such as *C. circinans*, *C. coccodes*, *C. dematium*, *C. gloeosporioides*, *C. liliacearum* and *C. tofieldiae* have been reported on *Iris* species from different regions worldwide as pathogens, saprobes or endophytes (Shivas et al. 2016, Liu et al. 2017, Farr & Rossman 2017) (<https://nt.ars-grin.gov/fungaldatabases/fungushost/fungushost.cfm>).

This study expands the investigation of *Colletotrichum* species on *Phyllanthus* and *Iris* species. Based on multi-locus phylogeny and morphology, we describe a new species, *Colletotrichum acidae*, occurring on a decaying rachis of *Phyllanthus acidus* in northern Thailand. In addition, we provide a new country record for *C. dematium* isolated from *Iris* species in Russia.

Materials & Methods

Collection, isolation and morphological studies

A dead rachis of *Phyllanthus acidus* on the road side north of Muang, Muang Chiang Rai district, Thailand and dead flower-bearing stems of *Iris* sp. from the Subtropical Botanical Garden of Kuban, Sochi, Krasnodar region, Russia were collected and received during 2016–2017.

Specimens were placed in paper bags and dried at room temperature for two days to avoid unwanted fungal growth, insect and mite infestations. Morphological characters such as acervuli on natural substrate (size, shape), conidia, conidiophore, setae (size, shape, colour) and appressoria (size, shape, colour) (Cai et al. 2009) were examined using a stereo microscope (SteREO Discovery v8) attached with Axio Cam ERc5s and Nikon ECLIPSE Ni-U compound microscope (Nikon, Tokyo, Japan) attached with a Canon EOS 600D camera (Canon Inc., Tokyo, Japan). Specimens were mounted in sterile water. The measurements were made with the Tarosoft (R) Image Frame Work program. Mean values and standard deviations ($\alpha=0.05$) were calculated and presented as (minimum–maximum) ($\bar{x}\pm SD$) (n =number of measurements). Images were used for figures and processed with Adobe Photoshop CS6 software (Adobe Systems Inc).

Pure fungal colonies were obtained through single spore isolation as described by Chomnunti et al. (2014). Germinating spores were transferred aseptically to Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA). The cultures were incubated at 25–30 °C for 4–6 weeks with frequent observations. The type specimens are deposited in the Mae Fah Luang University Herbarium (MFLU), Chiang Rai, Thailand and Herbarium of Kunming Institute of Botany (KUN), Chinese Academy of Sciences, Kunming,

China. Ex-type cultures are deposited in the Culture Collection at Mae Fah Luang University (MFLUCC) and International Collection of Microorganisms from Plants (ICMP), New Zealand. New taxa were linked with Facesoffungi and Index Fungorum databases as explained in Jayasiri et al. (2015) and Index Fungorum (2018).

DNA extraction, PCR amplification and sequencing

Fresh mycelium scraped from the margin of colonies on PDA plates (incubated at 28 °C for 4 weeks) and aseptically isolated acervuli were used for total genomic DNA extraction. PCR amplifications were carried out by using the primers ITS1/ITS4 (White et al. 1990), GDF/GDR (Templeton et al. 1992), CHS79F/CHS345R, ACT512F/ACT783R (Carbone & Kohn 1999) and BT1/BT2 primers (O'Donnell & Cigelnik 1997), to obtain sequences of the Internal transcribed spacer region (ITS) of the rRNA gene and of the genes coding for glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH), chitin synthase 1 (CHS-1), actin (ACT) and β -tubulin (TUB2) respectively.

A total volume of 25 μ l PCR mixture contained TaKaRa Ex-Taq DNA polymerase 0.3 μ l, 12.5 μ l of 2 \times PCR buffer with 2.5 μ l of dNTPs, 1 μ l of each primer, 9.2 μ l of double-distilled water and 100–500 ng of DNA template followed thermal cycle programmes described by Weir et al. (2012). All the PCR products were visualized by staining with ethidium bromide (EtBr) on 1.2% agarose gels. Successful PCR products were purified according to the manufacturer's instructions of a Qiagen purification kit (Qiagen, USA) and sequenced in Sunbiotech Company, Beijing, China.

Phylogenetic analyses

Obtained sequences were subjected to BLAST search in GenBank (<https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi>) and coherence of the results was controlled based on morphological characters. Reference sequence data (Tables 1, 2) were downloaded and imported into the ARB database and program package (Ludwig et al. 2004) together with the newly generated sequences and analysed following the ARB workflow (Perera et al. 2018, Thambugala et al. 2018). Individual loci were aligned using default settings of MAFFT (Katoh et al. 2009) as implemented in ARB applying an offset value of 0.5. The aligned sequences were improved when necessary by manual adjustments in ARB (Appendix 1).

ARB databases including all phylogenetic trees and corresponding alignments are available on the SILVA project website (https://www.arb-silva.de/no_cache/download/archive/publications/fungal_taxa/).

Table 1 Taxa (*Colletotrichum truncatum* species complex) used in the phylogenetic analyses.

Taxa	Isolate	ITS	GAPDH	CHS-1	ACT	TUB2	References
<i>C. acidae</i>	*MFLUCC 17–2659	MG996505	MH003691	MH003694	MH003697	MH003700	This study
	*MFLU 18–0233	MG996506	MH003692	MH003695	MH003698	MH003701	This study
<i>C. curcumae</i>	IMI 288937	GU227893	GU228285	GU228383	GU227991	GU228187	Damm et al. 2009
	strain TJ0709	MF278791	MF278793	MF278794	MF278796	MF278795	unpublished
<i>C. truncatum</i>	CBS 141.79	GU227873	GU228265	GU228363	GU227971	GU228167	Damm et al. 2009
	CBS 151.35	GU227862	GU228254	GU228352	GU227960	GU228156	Damm et al. 2009
	CBS 120709	GU227877	GU228269	GU228367	GU227975	GU228171	Damm et al. 2009
	IMI 135524	GU227874	GU228266	GU228364	GU227972	GU228168	Damm et al. 2009
	CBS 710.70	GU227864	GU228256	GU228354	GU227962	GU228158	Damm et al. 2009
<i>C. fusiforme</i>	MFLUCC 12–0437	KT290266	KT290255	KT290253	KT290251	KT290256	Ariyawansa et al. 2015

BLAST search results and initial morphological studies revealed that the two species investigated in this study belong to *Colletotrichum truncatum* and *C. dematium* species complexes. Therefore, separate analyses were carried out for each complex using only reliably alignable positions present in the majority of the sequences (Table 3). Phylogenetic analyses of the *C. truncatum* species complex were based on individual loci (data accessible at https://www.arb-silva.de/fileadmin/silva_databases/publications/fungal_taxa/Colletotrichum_acidae.arb) and a

concatenated alignment of ITS, GAPDH, CHS-1, ACT and TUB2. The *C. dematium* species complex was analysed based on individual loci (data accessible at https://www.arb-silva.de/fileadmin/silva_databases/publications/fungal_taxa/Colletotrichum_dematium.arb) and the concatenated alignment of ITS, GAPDH, CHS-1 and ACT followed the alignable base positions (Table 3). We obtained similar backbone tree topologies from individual and concatenated loci trees and considered only concatenated trees for each complex.

Table 2 Taxa (*Colletotrichum dematium* species complex) used in the phylogenetic analyses.

Taxa	Isolate	ITS	GAPDH	CHS-1	ACT	References
<i>C. anthracis</i>	CBS 125334	GU227845	GU228237	GU228335	GU227943	Damm et al. 2009
	CBS 125335	GU227846	GU228238	GU228336	GU227944	Damm et al. 2009
<i>C. circinans</i>	CBS 221.81	GU227855	GU228247	GU228345	GU227953	Damm et al. 2009
	CBS 111.21	GU227854	GU228246	GU228344	GU227952	Damm et al. 2009
	CBS 351.73/ATCC 24488	GU227858	GU228250	GU228348	GU227956	Damm et al. 2009
<i>C. dematium</i>	CBS 125.25	GU227819	GU228211	GU228309	GU227917	Damm et al. 2009
	CBS 125340	GU227820	GU228212	GU228310	GU227918	Damm et al. 2009
	IMI 350847	GU227825	GU228217	GU228315	GU227923	Damm et al. 2009
	CBS 115524/STE-U4078	GU227826	GU228218	GU228316	GU227924	Damm et al. 2009
	*MFLU 18–0234	MG996507	MH003693	MH003696	MH003699	This study
<i>C. eryngiicola</i>	MFLUCC 17–0318	KY792726	KY792723	KY792720	KY792717	Buyck et al. 2017
	MFLUCC 17–0317	KY792725	KY792722	KY792719	KY792716	Buyck et al. 2017
	KUMCC 17–0071	KY792724	KY792721	KY792718	KY792715	Buyck et al. 2017
<i>C. fructi</i>	CBS 346.37	GU227844	GU228236	GU228334	GU227942	Damm et al. 2009
<i>C. hemerocallidis</i>	CDLG5	JQ400005	JQ400012	JQ399998	JQ399991	Yang et al. 2012
	CDLN6	JQ400006	JQ400013	JQ399999	JQ399992	Yang et al. 2012
	CDLN7	JQ400007	JQ400014	JQ400000	JQ399993	Yang et al. 2012
<i>C. insertae</i>	MFLU 15–1895	KX618686	KX618684	KX618683	KX618682	Hyde et al. 2016
<i>C. lineola</i>	CBS 125337	GU227829	GU228221	GU228319	GU227927	Damm et al. 2009
	CBS 282.85	GU227843	GU228235	GU228333	GU227941	Damm et al. 2009
	CBS 125329	GU227833	GU228225	GU228323	GU227931	Damm et al. 2009
<i>C. menispermii</i>	MFLU 14–0625	KU242357	KU242356	KU242355	KU242353	Li et al. 2016
<i>C. quinquefoliae</i>	MFLU 14–0626	KU236391	KU236390	N/A	KU236389	Li et al. 2016
<i>C. sambucicola</i>	MFLUCC 16–1388	KY098781	KY098780	KY098779	KY098778	Tibpromma et al. 2017
	strain 2902-2	KY595193	KY595192	KY595191	KY595190	Tibpromma et al. 2017
<i>C. sedi</i>	MFLUCC 14–1002	KM974758	KM974755	KM974754	KM974756	Liu et al. 2015
<i>C. sonchicola</i>	JZB330117	KY962756	KY962753	KY962750	KY962747	Jayawardena et al. 2017
	MFLUCC 17–1299	KY962757	KY962754	KY962751	KY962748	Jayawardena et al. 2017
	MFLUCC17–1300	KY962758	KY962755	KY962752	KY962749	Jayawardena et al. 2017
<i>C. spinaceae</i>	CBS 128.57	GU227847	GU228239	GU228337	GU227945	Damm et al. 2009
	IMI 104607	GU227850	GU228242	GU228340	GU227948	Damm et al. 2009
	CBS 125347/DAOM212662	GU227851	GU228243	GU228341	GU227949	Damm et al. 2009

Abbreviations (Tables 1, 2): **ATCC** American Type culture collection, **CBS** Culture collection of the Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures, Fungal Biodiversity Centre, Utrecht, The Netherlands, **DAOM** National Mycological Herbarium, Ottawa, Canada, **IMI** Culture collection of CABI Europe UK Centre, Egham, UK, **KUMCC** Kunming Institute of Botany Culture Collection, **MFLU** Herbarium of Mae Fah Luang University, Chiang Rai, Thailand, **MFLUCC** Mae Fah Luang University Culture Collection, Chiang Rai, Thailand, **STE-U** Culture collection of the Department of Plant Pathology, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. Type strains are bold. *Sequence data obtained in this study. “N/A” sequence is unavailable.

Table 3 Alignable positions of each region in ARB.

Loci	Reference sequence	Alignable positions*	No. of bases
<i>Colletotrichum truncatum</i> species complex (<i>C. truncatum</i> CBS 151.35)			
ITS	GU227862	21–494	473
GAPDH	GU228254	19–254	235
CHS-1	GU228352	40–251	211
ACT	GU227960	22–248	266
TUB2	GU228156	47–230, 231–314, 315–487	440

Table 3 Continued.

Loci	Reference sequence	Alignable positions*	No. of bases
<i>C. dematium</i> species complex (<i>C. dematium</i> CBS 125.25)			
ITS	GU227819	31–515	484
GAPDH	GU228211	26–32, 33–129, 130–150, 151–260	234
CHS-1	GU228309	45–251	206
ACT	GU227917	1–35, 36–69, 70–84, 85–173, 174–213, 214–234	234

*The alignable base positions are based on original sequences in the GenBank

Maximum likelihood (ML) analyses (RAxML v8.2.8) (Stamatakis 2014) were performed as implemented in ARB applying the GTRGAMMA+I model of rate distribution as default parameter. Bootstrap support was calculated by rapid bootstrap analysis of 1,000 replicates using RAxML. Bayesian analyses were performed using MRBAYES v2 (Huelsenbeck & Ronquist 2001) with invariable site rate variation, six number of substitution types, four rate categories for the gamma distribution. Four chains were run for 1,000,000 MCMC generations with every 100th tree sampled and the analyses were automatically closed when split frequencies fell below 0.01. The split frequencies were 0.002 and 0.009 for the analyses of *Colletotrichum truncatum* and *C. dematium* species complexes respectively. The first 25% of the resulted trees of each were discarded with default parameter settings. The output trees were visualized by using Xfig v.3.2 patchlevel 5c (Protocol 3.2, <http://mcj.sourceforge.net/>) and final layouts were done with CorelDRAW Graphics Suite X6.

Results

Phylogenetic analyses

The sequence data obtained from strains MFLUCC 17–2659 and MFLU 18–0233 in this study were identical for all loci and each had closely related sequences to the *Colletotrichum truncatum* species complex in BLAST analyses. The concatenated alignment for the complex comprised ten strains representing four taxa. The individual and concatenated un-rooted trees were similar in topology. *C. fusiforme* and the new taxa, both known from Thailand, were sister taxa (100% ML/1.00 PP). This clade formed a basal clade to *C. truncatum* with maximum statistical supports (100% ML, Fig. 1).

The sequence matrix of the *C. dematium* species complex comprised of 32 taxa. The strain in this study clustered with *C. dematium* with low statistical support (53%ML/0.85PP) in the concatenated tree (Fig. 2).

Taxonomy

Colletotrichum acidae Samarak. & K.D. Hyde, sp. nov.

Fig. 3

Index Fungorum number: IF554277; Facesoffungi number: FoF04122

Etymology – based on the host species from which it was collected.

Holotype – MFLU 18–0100

Saprobic on dead *Phyllanthus acidus*. Asexual morph *Conidiomata* 95–225 μm (\bar{x} =148.8 \pm 45.9) μm (n=10) diam., black, acervulus, oval, solitary. *Setae* abundant, pale to medium brown, smooth walled, 1–5 septate, 70–170 μm (\bar{x} =113.4 \pm 44.6) μm (n=10) long, base cylindrical, 4–10 μm (\bar{x} =5.8 \pm 1.7) μm (n=20) diam., tip somewhat acute. *Conidiophores* hyaline, smooth-walled, simple, 10–20 μm (\bar{x} =14.6 \pm 3) μm (n=20) long. *Conidiogenous cells* 1–2 μm (\bar{x} =1.5 \pm 0.4) μm \times 2–3.5 μm (\bar{x} =2.75 \pm 0.4) μm (n=10), hyaline, smooth-walled, cylindrical to slightly inflated, opening 1–2.5 μm (\bar{x} =1.7 \pm 0.3) μm (n=20) diam. *Collarette* present, 0.4–1.1 μm (\bar{x} =0.8 \pm 0.2) μm (n=20) μm width, periclinal thickening visible. *Conidia* 18–30 μm (\bar{x} =25.1 \pm 2.5) μm \times 2.8–4 μm (\bar{x} =3.4 \pm 0.3) μm (n=40), L/W ratio 7.4 (n=40), hyaline, smooth or verruculose, aseptate, curved, both sides gradually tapering towards the round to slightly acute apex and truncate base, guttulate.

Appressoria 11–23 μm (\bar{x} =15.8 \pm 3.5) μm \times 9–18 μm (\bar{x} =12 \pm 2.9) μm (n=10), solitary to aggregated, medium to dark brown, smooth-walled, round or oval or irregular. Sexual morph not observed after 4 weeks of incubation.

Culture characteristics – Colonies on PDA reaching 40.4 mm in 7 days at 28 °C, crateriform with entire margin, olivaceous grey aerial mycelium becoming dull green towards the edge, reverse grey-olivaceous to dull green, concentric.

Material examined – THAILAND, Mae Fah Luang University, Muang, Mueang, Chiang Rai District, Chiang Rai 57100, (20° 02' 44.5" N, 99° 52' 34" E) on dead rachis of *Phyllanthus acidus* (Phyllanthaceae), 18 May 2017, Milan C. Samarakoon (SAMC004), (MFLU 18–0100 holotype, MFLU 18–0233 paratype), ex-type living culture MFLUCC 17–2659 and ICMP.

Notes – *Colletotrichum acidae* belongs to the *C. truncatum* species complex, species of which are characterized by curved conidia with truncate bases and acute, more strongly curved apices (Damm et al. 2009). The ITS based single gene tree also confirmed the close affinity of the species within the complex (data not shown). The multi-locus phylogenetic analyses showed that *C. acidae* is sister to *C. fusiforme* Wijayaw et al. which was isolated from a dead leaf of an undetermined host in Thailand (Ariyawansa et al. 2015). The size of the conidiomata is significantly larger in *C. acidae* (148 μm) as compared to *C. fusiforme* (80 μm). Setae of *C. fusiforme* are long (95–225 μm), dark brown to medium brown and 1–4-septate, while in *C. acidae* they are comparatively short (70–170 μm), pale to medium brown and 1–5-septate setae. Conidia of *C. fusiforme* have a higher L/W ration (8.2) than the *C. acidae* (7.4). Also, there is a clear distinction in the appressoria between the two species. *Colletotrichum fusiforme* has oval appressoria with L/W ratio = 3, while *C. acidae* has round or oval or irregular appressoria with L/W ratio = 1.3 (Fig. 3h–j). Interestingly, the morphological comparison clearly shows the *C. acidae* has intermediate characters in colour, size and shape as compared to *C. fusiforme* and *C. truncatum*.

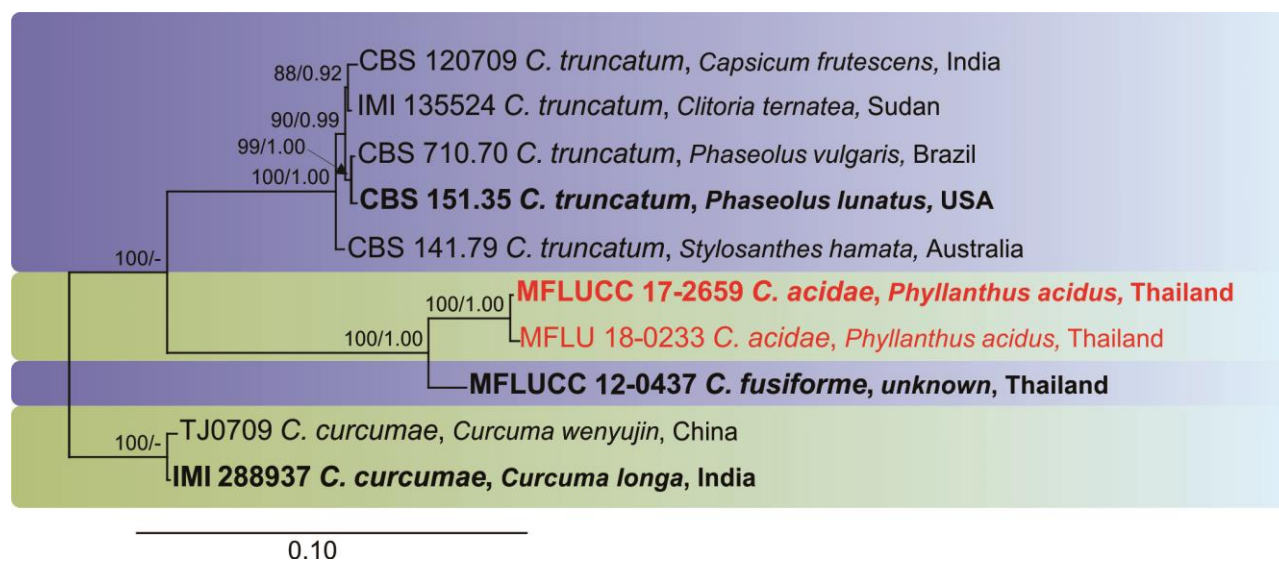


Figure 1 – Phylogenetic relationships in the *Colletotrichum truncatum* species complex. The newly proposed species, *C. acidae*, is indicated in red, type strains are in boldface. The culture/strain no, species, host and country are given for each taxon name. ML bootstrap support ($\geq 50\%$) and Bayesian posterior probabilities ($\geq 0.9\text{PP}$) are mapped to the most likely tree revealed by RAxML from an analysis of the ITS, GAPDH, CHS-1, ACT and TUB2. For the most likely tree (InL=-3188.257132, α =0.176943, invar=0.0001, TL=0.208808) with matrix had 121 distinct alignment patterns, with 3.24% of undetermined characters or gaps. The base frequencies and substitution rates are as, A=0.253179, C=0.278907, G=0.233957, T=0.233957; A-C=0.935603, A-G=3.880499, A-T=1.807471, C-G=0.649787, C-T=4.970592, G-T=1.0000.



Figure 2 – Phylogenetic relationships in the *Colletotrichum dematium* species complex. The newly generated information in red, type strains in boldface. The culture/strain no, species, host and country are given for each taxon name. ML bootstrap support ($\geq 50\%$) and Bayesian posterior probabilities ($\geq 0.9\text{PP}$) are mapped to the most likely tree revealed by Bayesian phylogenetic inference of the ITS, GAPDH, CHS-1 and ACT. For the most likely tree (InL=-3647.953372, $\alpha=0.247151$, invar=0.0001, TL=0.436903) with matrix had 233 distinct alignment patterns, with 2.72% of undetermined characters or gaps. The base frequencies and substitution rates are as, A=0.241561, C=0.280178, G=0.248605, T=0.229656; A-C=1.111599, A-G=3.611166, A-T=0.844507, C-G=0.965008, C-T=5.259273, G-T=1.0000.

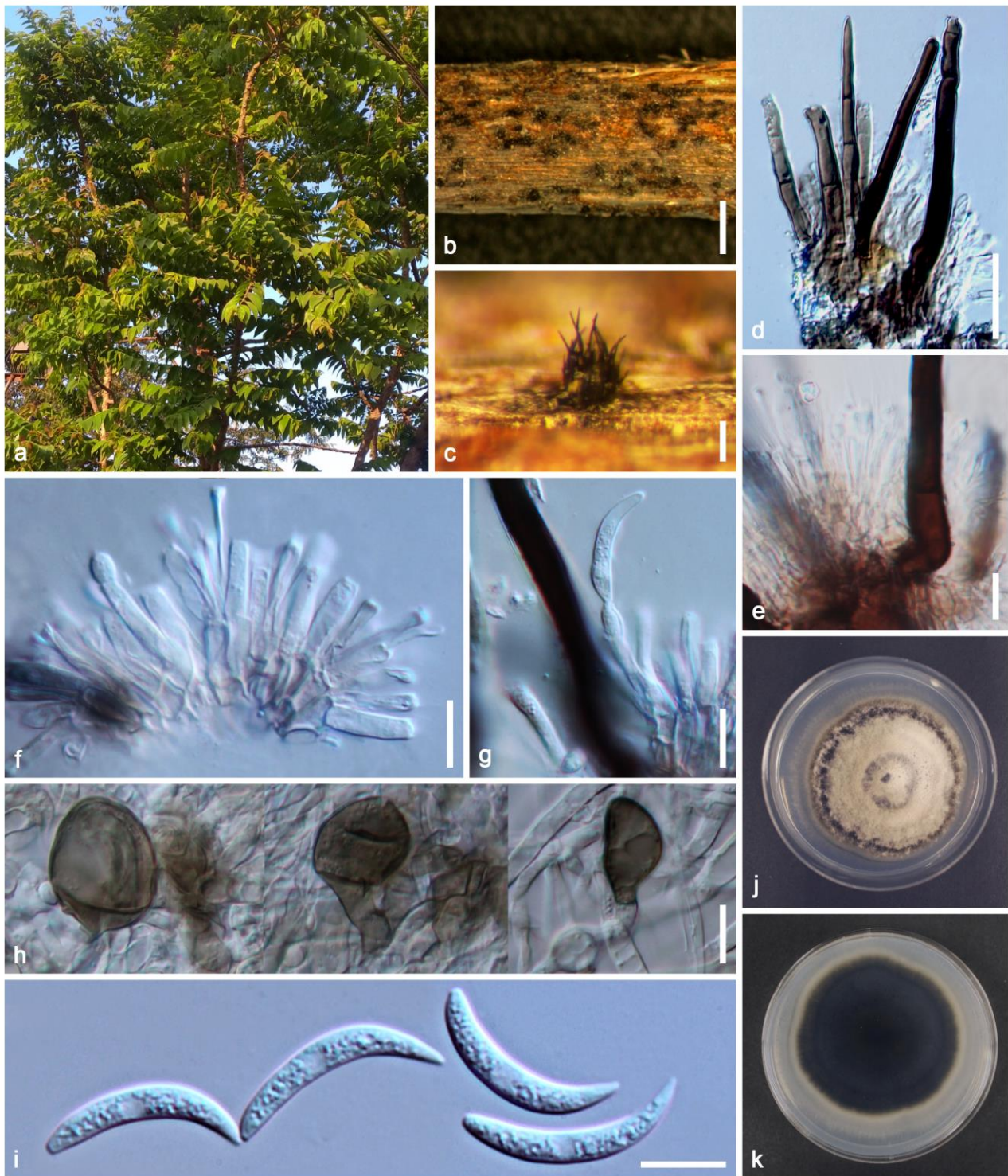


Figure 3 – *Colletotrichum acidae* (MFLU 18–0100, holotype). a Host. b Specimen with conidiomata. c Appearance of black acervuli on the host. d Brown setae. e Conidiophores with basal setae. f, g Hyaline conidiogenous cells. h Appressoria. i Hyaline conidia. j Upper view of the colony. k Reverse view of the colony (4 weeks old). Scale bars – a = 1000 μm , b = 100 μm , d = 20 μm , e–i = 10 μm .

The closest BLAST searches with the GAPDH, CHS-1, ACT and TUB2 sequences of MFLUCC 17–2659 were KT290255 (with 92% identity, 18bp differences), KT290253 (with 99% identity, 3bp differences), KT290251 (with 94% identity, 7bp differences) and KT290256 (with 94% identity, 11bp differences) from a isolate (MFLU 13–0291) saprobe on dead leaf in Thailand (Ariyawansa et al. 2015).

Based on both morphological and phylogenetic differences of the isolate, we introduce *C. acidae* as a new species. This is the second known saprobic species belonging to the *C. truncatum* species complex, from Thailand.

***Colletotrichum dematium* (Pers.) Grove**

Fig. 4

Index Fungorum number: IF120313; Facesoffungi number: FoF03598

Saprobic on dead flower-bearing stems of *Iris* sp. Asexual morph *Conidiomata* 165–430 μm (\bar{x} =285 \pm 75) μm (n=20) diam., black, acervular, oval, solitary. *Setae* abundant, medium to dark brown, smooth walled, 1–5 septate, 35–140 μm (\bar{x} =70 \pm 30) μm (n=20) long, base cylindrical, 4–12 μm (\bar{x} =7.3 \pm 2.3) μm (n=20) diam., tip somewhat acute. *Conidiophores* hyaline, smooth-walled, simple, (4–8.5 μm (\bar{x} =6.4 \pm 1.3) μm (n=15) μm long. *Conidiogenous cells* 5–14.8 μm (\bar{x} =8.6 \pm 3) μm \times 2.5–5 μm (\bar{x} =3.2 \pm 0.4) μm (n=15), hyaline, smooth-walled, cylindrical to slightly inflated. *Collarete* 0.5–1.1 μm (\bar{x} =0.8 \pm 0.2) μm (n=15) μm width, periclinal thickening visible. *Conidia* 21.5–25 μm (\bar{x} =23 \pm 0.9) μm \times 2.8–3.6 μm (\bar{x} =3.2 \pm 0.2) μm (n=50), length/width 7.08 (n=50), hyaline, smooth or verruculose, aseptate, curved, both sides gradually tapering towards the round to slightly acute apex and truncate base. Sexual morph not observed.

Material examined – RUSSIA, Krasnodar Region, Sochi City, Lazarevsky City District, Uch-Dere Village, Subtropical Botanical Garden of Kuban (sanatorium “Belye Nochi”), flowerbed, on dead flower-bearing stems of *Iris* sp., 7 October 2016, Timur S. Bulgakov SC-088 (MFLU 18–0234).

Notes – The collection MFLU 18–0234 is morphologically similar to *C. eryngiicola* Jayaward., Bulgakov & K.D. Hyde, which share black, oval and solitary acervuli and abundant setae on acervuli with 1–5 septa. However, the sizes of the acervuli have slight differences between the two species (*C. eryngiicola* 300–700 μm , MFLU 18–0234 165–430 μm) (Buyck et al. 2017). *Colletotrichum dematium* differs from MFLU 18–0234 with one setae and 3–8 septa (Damm et al. 2009). *Colletotrichum dematium*, *C. eryngiicola* and the strain MFLU 18–0234 bear pale brown conidiogenous cells, while showing clear differences in the L/W ratio of conidia (*C. dematium* 6, *C. eryngiicola* 6.3, MFLU 18–0234 7.08). However, Damm et al. (2009), observed different isolates with different L/W ratio of conidia which are close to the strain MFLU 18–0234 (e.g. IMI 350847 6.7, CBS 125340 5.5).

The GAPDH sequence of MFLU 18–0234 was 100% identical to JX669425, *Colletotrichum dematium* strain. The CHS-1 sequence was closer to KX618683 (with 95% identity, 5bp differences) generated from *C. insertae* on *Parthenocissus inserta* (L.) Planch. (Vitaceae) from Russia (Hyde et al. 2016). The closest match with the ACT sequence was KY792717 (with 100% identity) from the strain from Russia (Buyck et al. 2017).

The concatenate phylogenetic analyses revealed that strain MFLU 18–0234 clusters with *C. dematium* with low statistical support. Giving the priority to the phylogenetic analyses the strain MFLU 18–0234 isolated from *Iris* sp. from Russia is identified as a *C. dematium* species. *Colletotrichum dematium* has been recorded on *Lilium pensylvanicum* Ker Gawl. (Liliaceae) in Asian Russia near border with China (Egorova 2007) and on *Tilia cordata* Mill. (Malvaceae) in Northwestern European Russia (Mel'nik et al. 2008) and on *Vitis vinifera* L. (Vitaceae) in Southern European Russia (Jayawardena et al. 2018). However, this is the first record for the occurrence of *C. dematium* on an *Iris* sp. in Russia.

Discussion

Colletotrichum is a worldwide-distributed genus on different hosts (Cannon et al. 2012, Hyde et al. 2014, Jayawardena et al. 2016b). A vast diversity of *Colletotrichum* species is known from tropical regions (Udayanga et al. 2013). However, plant pathology based *Colletotrichum* studies are predominant (e.g. Shenoy et al. 2007, Prihastuti et al. 2009, Udayanga et al. 2013, Chowdappa et al. 2014, Krishnapillai & Wilson-Wijeratnam 2014, Sakinah et al. 2014, He et al. 2016) over endophytes and saprobes. Therefore, the extension of further discoveries towards the endophytic

and saprobic *Colletotrichum* species is needed. Also, the relationships between those nutritional modes may also reveal potential opportunistic pathogens hidden as endophytes or saprobes.

A study focussing on *C. truncatum*, *C. dematium* and *C. gloeosporioides* from leguminous plants in Malaysia suggested that the GAPDH locus is critical to resolve intraspecific relationships and closely related species in *Colletotrichum* (Mahmodi et al. 2014). By considering the phylogenetic analyses and morphological differences, we introduce *C. acidae* as a new species and *C. dematium* as a new country record in this paper. Furthermore, *Colletotrichum acidae* and *C. fusiforme* still known from Thailand are saprobes, which cluster among other pathogenic species. It would be interesting to carry out further research into whether they lost their pathogenicity during evolution, or establish if they may still be pathogenic under different environmental conditions.

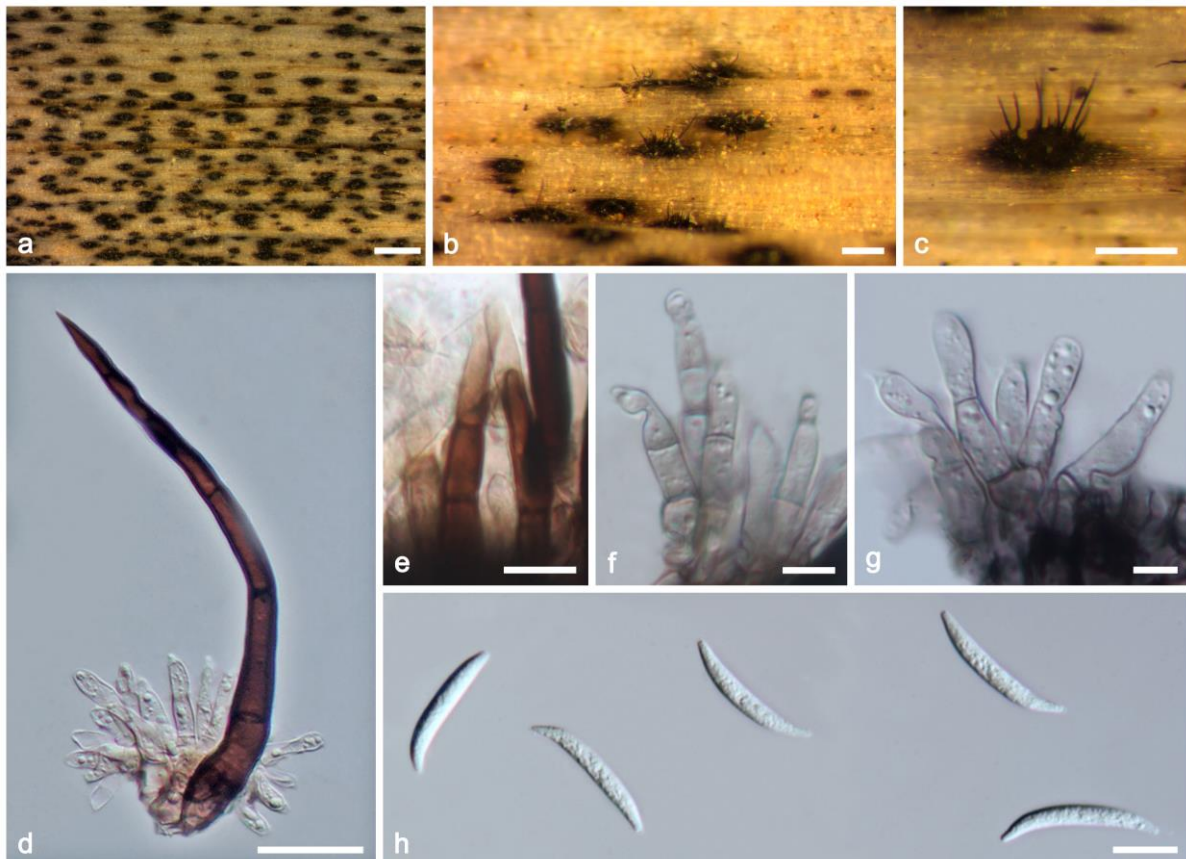


Figure 4 – *Colletotrichum dematium* (MFLU 18–0234). a Specimen with conidiomata. b, c Black acervuli on the host surface. d Brown setae. e Apex of setae. f–g Hyaline conidiogenous cells. g Hyaline conidia. Scale bars – a = 1000 μ m, b–c = 200 μ m, d = 20 μ m, e, h = 10 μ m, f–g = 5 μ m.

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Appendix 1: Supplementary information to manuscript

Phylogenetic analyses of multi-locus alignments using ARB

- 1) ARB (<http://www.arb-home.de/>) was installed on a QIIME 2 Core VirtualBox Image (v 2017.12, <https://qiime2.org/>), on which libxm4 and Xfig had been installed previously.
- 2) Sequences downloaded from GenBank (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>) were saved shared folder in GenBank format (e.g. ITS.gb).
- 3) A new ARB database was created using the
 - Sequences were imported into the alignment “ali ITS”
- 4) The newly created import filter, “GB_MFU.ift” (https://www.arb-silva.de/fileadmin/silva_databases/imp_exp_filters/GB_MFU.ift), was applied to import a maximum of sequence associated information.
- 5) The newly generated sequences were imported in FASTA format (File > Import > Import from external format)
- 6) The sequence accession number was preserved.
 - The accession was copied to new field called “Acc ITS”

- i. Sequences with entries in the ali_ITS/data field were searched (Species > Search and query) and the accession numbers were copied using “More functions > Modify Fields of Listed Species” in the “SEARCH and QUERY” window.
- 7) Imported ITS sequences were aligned using MAFFT (Sequences > Align Sequences > Mafft).
- 8) A selected sequence was copied to a new ‘species’ called ‘filter’ and used as a filter sequence for phylogenetic analyses.
 - Positions in the newly created filter sequence, which correspond to ambiguously aligned regions were replaced by Gap symbols (“-”).
- 9) Successive import of sequences from other loci
 - A new alignment was created (Sequence > Sequence/Alignment Admin) for each additional loci.
 - Two databases as,
 - truncatum complex – ali_ITS, ali_GAPDH, ali_CHS-1, ali_ACT, ali_TUB2
 - dematium complex – ali_ITS, ali_GAPDH, ali_CHS-1, ali_ACT
 - Sequence Accession numbers were copied to the corresponding field, i.e. ‘Acc_ITS’, ‘Acc_GAPDH’, ‘Acc_CHS1-’, ‘Acc_ACT’ and ‘Acc_TUB2’ respectively.
 - Newly imported sequences were aligned using MAFFT.
 - A filter sequence, always called ‘filter’, was created and modified appropriately (the alignable positions used for the analyses are given in Table 03).
- 10) Merging of sequences
 - A new field (“individual”) was created (Species > Database fields admin > create fields...)
 - Strain or specimen Ids were copied (using “More functions > Modify Fields of Listed Species” in the “SEARCH and QUERY” window) to the field “individual” and curated.
 - Expert mode was enabled (Properties > Toggle expert mode).
 - Sequence of the same individual were merged (Species > Merge Species > Create merged species from similar species) using entries in the database field “individual” as identifier.
 - The newly created field “merged_species” was modified by adding a “1” to those individuals (strain or specimens) which are only represented by a single sequence.
 - Database entries with single sequences were deleted; i.e. species having no entry in the “merged_species” field were searched (Species > Search and query) and deleted (Delete Listed).
- 11) Calculating phylogenetic trees using RAxML for single loci.
 - Only positions in which the filter sequence has no Gap (“-”) were considered for phylogenetic reconstructions.
 - Parameters - GTRGAMMA+I model of rate distribution, 1,000 replicates
 - The resulted trees were renamed.
 - To assure traceability of the analyses, the alignment (including the filter sequence) underlying the phylogenetic tree was copied to a new alignment, which was renamed including the name of the corresponding tree.
- 12) Calculating multi-locus phylogenies.
 - Single loci alignments (including the filter sequences) were concatenated (Sequence > Concatenate Sequences/Alignments).
 - Phylogenetic trees were calculated as detailed above based on the positions specified by the filter sequence.
 - Concatenated trees were obtained using RAxML and MRBAYES.

- Trees were renamed and the underlying alignment copied to a correspondingly named alignment for documentation.
- 13) Deposition of the databases in SILVA project website
- (https://www.arb-silva.de/no_cache/download/archive/publications/fungal_taxa/).