

## **Leptosphaerulina McAlp. antedates Pseudoplea Höhn.**

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In a previous paper (Mycologia **46**: 83) the writer discussed a group of related genera often confused in the literature and concluded that the genus *Pseudoplea* was the prior generic name for a group of leaf inhabiting species distinct from the genus *Saccoltheium* (*Pleosphaerulina*).

During a recent visit, Dr. Emil Müller kindly pointed out that MacAlpine's genus *Leptosphaerulina* was described with a figure of an ascus suggesting the genus *Pseudoplea*. The genus *Pseudoplea*. The genus *Leptosphaerulina* was described in 1902 (Fungus dis. of Stone Fruit trees, p. 103), with *L. australis* McAlp. as the type species, and, therefore, has priority over the name *Pseudoplea* Höhn. (1918).

Through the kindness of Miss Eileen Fisher, the writer has been able to study the four collections of *L. australis* in the Herbarium of the Department of Agriculture of Victoria, Australia. None of these collections appear to be the type, which was given as on *Prunus armeniaca* from Queensland. The type seems to be lost, but these collections are all determined by MacAlpine.

Collection No. 1 showed only pycnidia of a *Phyllosticta*. No. 2 yielded only fascicles of conidiophores with a Hyphomycete of the *Scolecotrichum* type. On No. 3 a few minute ascostromata, 50—100  $\mu$  in diameter were found on a tan necrotic spot. These were light brown, membranous and had punctate ostioles. They contained broad saccate, often flattened asci with thickened walls and a nipple-like extension at the apex, which is typical of the genus *Pseudoplea*. They were 53—70  $\times$  37  $\mu$ , with triseriate spores which were mostly immature. The mature spores were ellipsoid, hyaline, 3—4 septate, with the fourth septum inserted in the lower end, a vertical septum in the two central cells, and 29—32  $\times$  14  $\mu$ . In collection No. 4 a few similar ascostromata but no asci or spores were found on the leaves of *Dolichos*. On the leaves of *Papaver*, a few ascostromata 80—100  $\mu$  in diameter were found with saccate asci 55—62  $\times$  35  $\mu$  and 3—4 septate hyaline spores 27—32  $\times$  12.5  $\mu$ , which were identical with those on collection No. 3.

From these facts it seems true that Höhnel's and the writer's concept of the genus *Pseudoplea* coincides with that of MacAlpine's

<sup>1)</sup> Papers of the Dept. of Botany of the Univ. of Michigan No. 1099.

concept of his genus *Leptosphaerulina*, and as the latter name has priority, *Pseudoplea* must become a synonym of *Leptosphaerulina* McAlp.

Inasmuch as the *Papaver rhoeas* component of collection No. 4 is the earliest to show a fungus corresponding to McAlpine's description No. 4 is the earliest to show a fungus corresponding to McAlpine's description, it is proposed as the neotype of the genus *Leptosphaerulina*, in the absence of a holotype, although it must be admitted that there is very little material in either collection Nos. 3 or 4.

*Leptosphaerulina* and the genus *Wettsteinina* Hohn (1907) are also closely related and grade off one into the other. The species of *Wettsteinina* tend to have larger, hyaline spores usually without vertical septa, whereas the tendency in *Leptosphaerulina* is toward smaller, muriform spores which may become pigmented at maturity but further comparative studies are needed to determine their logical separation.

Collections: No. 1. On Arum Lily (*Richardia* ?), Armadale, Melbourne, Aug. 12, 1892, McAlpine. No. 2. On *Dolichos* leaf and *Aquilegia*, Armadale, July 1, 1904, G. P. R., Det. McAlpine. No. 3 on Hops, Armadale, Feb. 28, 1904, McAlpine. No. 4. On *Dolichos lignosus*, July 12, 1901, and *Papaver rhoeas*, Oct. 21, 1902, Port Foury, Camberwell. (marked with a red circular sticker).

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Sydowia](#)

Jahr/Year: 1958/1959

Band/Volume: [12](#)

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Artikel/Article: [Leptosphaerulina McAlp. antedates Pseudroplea Höhn. 490-491](#)