# Identification of a new order of root-colonising fungi in the Entorrhizomycota: Talbotiomycetales ord. nov. on eudicotyledons

Kai Riess¹, Robert Bauer¹, Ronny Kellner², Martin Kemler³, Marcin Piątek⁴, Kálmán Vánky⁵, and Dominik Begerow6

<sup>1</sup>University of Tübingen, Institute of Evolution and Ecology, Plant Evolutionary Ecology, Auf der Morgenstelle 1, 72076 Tübingen, Germany; corresponding author e-mail: kai.riess@uni-tuebingen.de

Abstract: The recently described fungal phylum Entorrhizomycota was established solely for the genus Entorrhiza, species of which cause root-galls in Cyperaceae and Juncaceae. Talbotiomyces calosporus (incertae sedis) shares morphological characteristics and an ecological niche with species of Entorrhiza. We investigated the higher classification of T. calosporus to determine whether it belongs in Entorrhizomycota. Ribosomal DNA sequences showed Talbotiomyces to be a close relative of Entorrhiza and both taxa form a highly supported monophyletic group. Based on molecular phylogenetic analyses and in congruence with existing morphological and ecological data, Entorrhiza and Talbotiomyces represent a deep dichotomy within the Entorrhizomycota. While species of Entorrhiza are characterised by dolipores and occur on monocotyledons, members of Talbotiomyces are characterised by simple pores and are associated with eudicotyledons. This expands the host range of the recently described Entorrhizomycota from Poales to other angiosperms. Higher taxa, namely Talbotiomycetales ord. nov. and Talbotiomycetaceae fam. nov., are proposed here to accommodate Talbotiomyces.

#### Key words:

Entorrhiza fungal evolution molecular phylogeny root galls Talbotiomyces

Article info: Submitted: 6 May 2015; Accepted: 16 May 2015; Published: 26 May 2015.

### INTRODUCTION

Entorrhiza consists of species that form galls on roots of two monocotyledon sister families, Cyperaceae and Juncaceae. This enigmatic genus had an unstable and unresolved systematic position within the kingdom Fungi. Traditionally, it was considered a smut genus and classified in Tilletiaceae (Zundel 1953). In the modern classification of smut fungi, based on ultrastructure and molecular phylogeny, Entorrhiza was accommodated in the distinct family, order, subclass and class, Entorrhizaceae, Entorrhizales, Entorrhizomycetidae and Entorrhizomycetes, within the Ustilaginomycotina (Bauer et al. 1997, Begerow et al. 1998, 2007). Bauer et al. (2015) demonstrated that Entorrhiza could not be assigned to any of the main fungal lineages and consequently established the novel phylum Entorrhizomycota. However, it remains unclear if Entorrhizomycota belongs to the subkingdom Dikarya, which comprises the phyla Ascomycota and Basidiomycota, or represents a sister group (Bauer et al. 2015).

Entorrhizomycota currently comprises a single genus, Entorrhiza, with 14 species that cause galls in the roots of Cyperaceae and Juncaceae (Fineran 1978, Vánky 1994,

2012, 2013, Denchev & Denchev 2012). Due to the different age estimates of the Entorrhizomycota versus those of their host groups, Bauer et al. (2015) hypothesized that known entorrhizomycotan species and their respective host range only reflect a very small portion of a much larger, yet undiscovered diversity. Species of Entorrhiza regularly form septate, clampless hyphae, which are coiled in living host cells. During spore formation, hyphae terminate with globose cells, which detach from the hyphae and become thickwalled teliospores (Fineran 1980, Deml & Oberwinkler 1981, Bauer et al. 2015). Talbotiomyces, a genus morphologically similar to Entorrhiza, was established to accommodate Entorrhiza calospora, a species causing galls on roots of some South African members of the eudicotyledonous order Caryophyllales (Vánky et al. 2007). Given the similar morphology and ecology of Talbotiomyces calosporus to those of Entorrhiza species, it is possible that Talbotiomyces might be an unrecognized member of the Entorrhizomycota. To test this hypothesis, we analysed the nuclear rDNA of an isotype of T. calosporus collected in 1943, with five species of Entorrhiza, and representatives of Dikarya and Glomeromycota.

© 2015 International Mycological Association

You are free to share - to copy, distribute and transmit the work, under the following conditions:

Attribution: You must attribute the work in the manner specified by the author or licensor (but not in any way that suggests that they endorse you or your use of the work).

Non-commercial: You may not use this work for commercial purposes. No derivative works: You may not alter, transform, or build upon this work.

For any reuse or distribution, you must make clear to others the license terms of this work, which can be found at http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/legalcode. Any of the above conditions can be waived if you get permission from the copyright holder. Nothing in this license impairs or restricts the author's moral rights.

VOLUME 6 · NO. 1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>The Sainsbury Laboratory, Norwich Research Park, Norwich, NR4 7UH, UK

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute, University of Pretoria, Cnr Lynnwood and University Road, Hatfield 0083, Pretoria, South Africa

 $<sup>^4</sup>$ W. Szafer Institute of Botany of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Department of Mycology, Lubicz 46, PL-31-512 Kraków, Poland

<sup>5</sup>Gabriel-Biel-Straße 5, 72076 Tübingen, Germany

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>University of Bochum, AG Geobotanik, Universitätsstraße 150, 44780 Bochum, Germany

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

#### Material

Specimen examined: Talbotiomyces calosporus: South Africa: Gauteng: Pretoria, Brummeria, near Murray Farm, on Limeum viscosum (syn. L. glomeratum), 30 Jan. 1943, J.J.O. Pazzi (BRIP: HUV 587 – isotype from PREM 33770 – holotype).

## DNA isolation, PCR, and sequencing

Total genomic DNA was extracted using the InnuPREP Plant DNA Kit (Analytik Jena, Jena) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The small subunit (SSU) rDNA region was amplified with various primer combinations from the sets NS1 to NS8 (White et al. 1990) and NS17 to NS24 (Gargas & Taylor 1992). PCRs were performed using Phusion High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase (Finnzymes Oy, Vantaa, Finland), following the protocol recommended by the manufacturer with annealing temperatures of approximately 5 °C above the mean primer melting temperatures, and 30 cycles. The 5' end of the large subunit (LSU) of the nuclear rDNA was amplified with the primer combination LR0R (R. Vilgalys Lab., http://biology.duke.edu/fungi/mycolab/ primers.htm) and LR6 (Vilgalys & Hester 1990). PCR mixtures consisted of 5 µL of PCR reaction buffer (10x), 0.75 mM of MgCl<sub>2</sub> (50 mM), 14.5  $\mu$ L of water, 1  $\mu$ L of dNTP mix (5 mM), 0.50 µL of each primer (25 pmol/µL), 0.25 µL of Mango Tag DNA polymerase (Bioline, Luckenwalde) (2 U/μL), and undiluted 2.5 μL template DNA. PCRs were performed with the following thermal profile: 10 cycles of 30 s at 94 °C, 45 s at 60 °C (-1 °C per cycle), and 75 s at 72 °C, followed by 26 cycles of 30 s at 94 °C, 45 s at 50 °C and 75 s at 72 °C, with a final extension of 7 min at 72 °C. PCR products were purified using ExoSAP-IT (USB Corporation, Cleveland, OH), and diluted (1:20) for further analysis. Cycle sequencing of SSU and LSU rDNA was accomplished using a 1:6 diluted BigDye Terminator v. 3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) and the amplification primers. Sequencing was performed on an ABI Prism 3130xl Genetic Analyser (Applied Biosystems). Forward and reverse sequence chromatograms were checked for accuracy and edited using Sequencher v. 4.1 (Gene Codes Corporation, Ann Arbor, MI). The newly generated DNA sequences of Talbotiomyces calosporus have been deposited in GenBank under the accession numbers KJ666129 (SSU) and KP413056 (LSU).

# Molecular phylogenetic analyses

To determine the phylogenetic position of *Talbotiomyces*, we assembled datasets containing rDNA SSU and LSU sequences. Both datasets included a sequence of the isotype of *T. calosporus*, all *Entorrhiza* sequences currently available in GenBank and two representatives of each dikaryan subphylum and the *Glomeromycota* (Fig. 1). The chytrids *Gromochytrium mamkaevae* and *Olpidium brassicae* were used as outgroup taxa. For GenBank accession numbers and full datasets see TreeBASE submission ID 17604. Alignments were performed separately with MAFFT v. 7.147b (Katoh & Standley 2013) using the E-INS-i option (Katoh *et al.* 2005). Initial

alignments were further modified with Gblocks v. 0.91b (Castresana 2000) to remove ambiguously aligned regions using standard parameters with one exception: 'allowed gap positions with half'. The final SSU alignment had a length of 1498 bp and the LSU alignment had a length 514 bp. For further analyses, both alignments were analysed separately as well as in a concatenated dataset. Maximum likelihood (ML) phylogenetic analyses and rapid bootstrapping with 1000 replicates under the GTRCAT model were performed using RAxML v. 8.0.17 (Stamatakis 2014). Additionally, posterior probabilities for nodal support were determined in a Bayesian phylogenetic MCMC search with MrBayes v. 3.2.2 (Ronquist et al. 2012) using the GTR+G model. Each search comprised two runs of four chains, each for 5 × 106 generations. Posterior probabilities were sampled every 100 generations with the first 2.5 × 106 generations being discarded as burn-in. The genetic divergences (uncorrected p-distance) between Talbotiomyces and Entorrhiza were calculated based on full-length sequence alignments using Mesquite v. 2.75 (Maddison & Maddison 2011).

### **RESULTS**

### Phylogenetic placement of Talbotiomyces

The results of our molecular phylogenetic analyses of rDNA sequences of *Talbotiomyces calosporus*, five species of *Entorrhiza*, and two representatives of each dikaryan subphylum and *Glomeromycota* are shown in Fig. 1. In phylogenetic analyses of individual SSU and LSU data (not shown) as well as the combined dataset (Fig. 1), *Entorrhiza* and *Talbotiomyces* formed a strongly supported monophyletic group. The genetic distance between *T. calosporus* and the closest related species was 77 bp or 5.0 % to *E. fineranae* (18S) and 57 bp or 9.0 % to *E. aschersoniana* (LSU). In the phylogenetic tree derived from a concatenated dataset, the *EntorrhizalTalbotiomyces* clade was placed as a sister to the *Dikarya*, supported by 99 % ML bootstrap and 1.00 Bayesian posterior probability (Fig. 1).

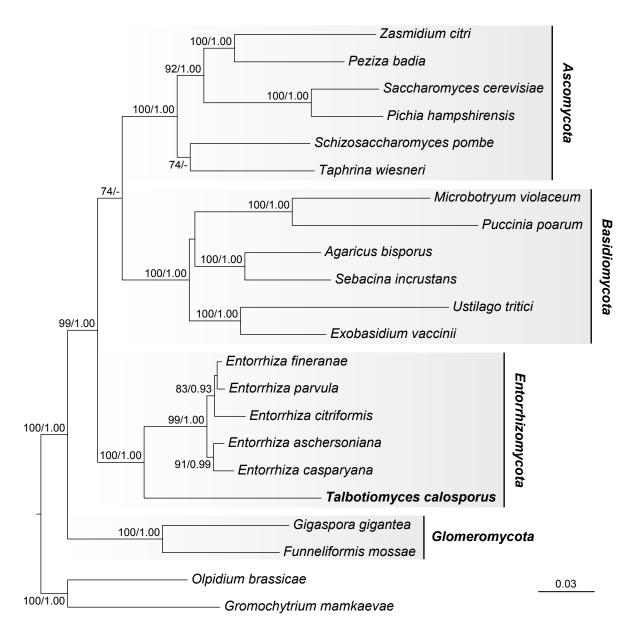
### **TAXONOMY**

Our results indicate that *Talbotiomyces calosporus* belongs to *Entorrhizomycota*. Molecular phylogenetic analyses revealed a dichotomy between *Entorrhiza* and *Talbotiomyces*, and together with ultrastructural and host range information, it justifies a new classification at a higher taxonomical level. We assume a much larger potential diversity of *Talbotiomyces*, and propose to accommodate *Talbotiomyces* in a new family and order within the class *Entorrhizomycetes*:

**Talbotiomycetales** K. Riess, R. Bauer, R. Kellner, Kemler, Piątek, Vánky & Begerow, **ord. nov.** MycoBank MB810797

*Diagnosis:* Members of the *Entorrhizomycetes* Begerow *et al.* 2007 having simple pores.

Type: Talbotiomyces Vánky et al. 2007.



**Fig. 1.** Phylogenetic placement of *Talbotiomyces calosporus*. Best ML tree topology derived from a combined dataset of SSU and LSU rDNA sequences of *Talbotiomyces*, *Entorrhiza*, and representatives of *Ascomycota*, *Basidiomycota*, and *Glomeromycota*. Branch support is given as ML bootstrap percentage (≥ 70) / Bayesian posterior probability (≥ 0.90). The tree was rooted with the chytrids *Gromochytrium mamkaevae* and *Olpidium brassicae*.

**Talbotiomycetaceae** K. Riess, R. Bauer, R. Kellner, Kemler, Piątek, Vánky & Begerow, **fam. nov**. MycoBank MB810798

*Diagnosis:* Members of the *Talbotiomycetales* occurring on eudicotyledons.

Type: Talbotiomyces Vánky et al. 2007.

### **DISCUSSION**

### Entorrhiza/Talbotiomyces relationship

Talbotiomyces calosporus was recovered in a monophyletic group with species of *Entorrhiza*, with strong phylogenetic support from the SSU and LSU regions of rDNA (Fig. 1).

The phylogenetic relationship between Talbotiomyces and Entorrhiza is additionally well supported by morphological and ecological characters of both genera. Both cause galls on plant roots and regularly have septate and clampless hyphae, which form coils in living host cells. Entorrhiza and Talbotiomyces also have hyphae that terminate with globose cells that detach from the hyphae and become thick-walled teliospores (Talbot 1956, Fineran 1980, Deml & Oberwinkler 1981, Bauer et al. 1997, 2001, 2015, Vánky et al. 2007). However, the septal pore architecture and host range of Entorrhiza differs from Talbotiomyces. Entorrhiza is characterised by dolipores and colonizes monocotyledons (Cyperaceae and Juncaceae) (Bauer et al. 1997, 2001). In contrast, T. calosporus possesses simple pores with rounded pore lips and occurs on members of the dicotyledonous order Caryophyllales (Vánky et al. 2007). Therefore, multiple lines

VOLUME 6 · NO. 1

of evidence indicate that *Entorrhizomycota* should be split into two orders: *Entorrhizales* and *Talbotiomycetales*, the latter name is introduced in this study. The large genetic distance between *Talbotiomyces* and *Entorrhiza* indicates an early divergence of the *Entorrhizomycota* into two lineages. The inclusion of *Talbotiomyces* into *Entorrhizomycota*, however, did not resolve the phylogenetic position of this recently established fungal phylum (Bauer *et al.* 2015).

### Coevolution and presumed host spectrum

Specimens of Entorrhiza and Talbotiomyces are rarely collected and their evolutionary relationships are still poorly understood. Entorrhiza species are associated with roots of Cyperaceae and Juncaceae worldwide, although mostly reported from temperate or high mountain regions (Vánky 2012). Talbotiomyces calosporus is only known from a few localities in subtropical South Africa on Limeum viscosum (Molluginaceae) and Trianthema pentandra (Aizoaceae) (Talbot 1956). Furthermore, Vánky et al. (2007) reported an additional host plant, Portulaca oleracea (Portulacaceae), apparently based on the material preserved in HUV 21397. That specimen is annotated by K. Vánky: "I was unable to find any spores of Entorrhiza calospora type". The T. calosporus/ P. oleracea fungus/host combination needs to be confirmed. It is unclear whether *T. calosporus* is a polyphagous species that associates with host plants from two or three different families, or represents a suite of closely related cryptic or pseudo-cryptic species, each restricted to one host genus or species, as in other biotrophic plant pathogens (e.g. Bauer et al. 2008, Lutz et al. 2008, Göker et al. 2009, Ploch et al. 2011, Beenken et al. 2012, Liu and Hambleton 2013, Piątek et al. 2012, 2013, Vasighzadeh et al. 2014, Voglmayr et al. 2014, McTaggart et al. 2015). Due to the different age estimates of the Entorrhizomycota and their hosts, Bauer et al. (2015) hypothesized that the known species and their respective host range reflects only a small part of a larger diversity. The inclusion of Talbotiomyces in Entorrhizomycota extends the host spectrum of the phylum from Cyperaceae/Juncaceae (Poales) to the eudicotyledons. A large gap remains between the age estimates of Entorrhizomycota (roughly 600 Mya; Bauer et al. 2015) and their hosts (roughly 150 Mya; Wikström et al. 2001). The possibility that the host spectrum of Entorrhizomycota is even broader, comprising also early-diverged land plants, such as ferns and mosses. Due to the lack of above-ground symptoms of infection, infected host plants of Entorrhizomycota are difficult to detect in nature, and such evolutionarily ancient interactions have not been discovered so far. Additionally, some members of the Entorrhiza/ Talbotiomyces clade may not cause symptoms or may occur as endophytes in roots. The next step will be to develop specific primers for Entorrhizomycota to test whether species of this fascinating group of root-colonizing fungi also may occur as endophytes in plant roots, in analogy to Sebacinales (Weiß et al. 2011, Garnica et al. 2013).

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Robert Bauer (1950–2014) initiated this project and unexpectedly passed away before the manuscript was published. We thank Roger G. Shivas (BRIP) for kindly providing a fragment of isotype of

*Talbotiomyces calosporus* from HUV (smut fungi collection of Kálmán Vánky), now deposited in BRIP. We are grateful to Sigisfredo Garnica (Tübingen University), Alistair McTaggart (FABI) and Roger G. Shivas for valuable comments on the manuscript. This study was funded by the German Research Foundation, DFG (BA 75/3-1; BE 2201/7-1).

### **REFERENCES**

- Bauer R, Begerow D, Oberwinkler F, Piepenbring M, Berbee ML (2001) *Ustilaginomycetes*. In: *The Mycota*. Vol. 7. Part B. *Systematics and Evolution*. (McLaughlin DJ, McLaughlin EG, Lemke PA, eds): 57–83. Berlin: Springer.
- Bauer R, Garnica S, Oberwinkler F, Riess K, Weiß M, *et al.* (2015) *Entorrhizomycota*: a new fungal phylum reveals new perspectives on the evolution of *Fungi. PLoS ONE*: in press.
- Bauer R, Lutz M, Begerow D, Piątek M, Vánky K, *et al.* (2008) Anther smut fungi on monocots. *Mycological Research* **112**: 1297–1306.
- Bauer R, Oberwinkler F, Vánky K (1997) Ultrastructural markers and systematics in smut fungi and allied taxa. *Canadian Journal of Botany* **75**: 1273–1314.
- Beenken L, Zoller S, Berndt R (2012) Rust fungi on *Annonaceae* II: the genus *Dasyspora* Berk. & M.A. Curtis. *Mycologia* **104**: 659–681.
- Begerow D, Bauer R, Oberwinkler F (1998) ["1997"] Phylogenetic studies on nuclear LSU rDNA sequences of smut fungi and related taxa. *Canadian Journal of Botany* **75**: 2045–2056.
- Begerow D, Stoll M, Bauer R (2007) ["2006"] A phylogenetic hypothesis of *Ustilaginomycotina* based on multiple gene analyses and morphological data. *Mycologia* **98**: 906–916.
- Castresana J (2000) Selection of conserved blocks from multiple alignments for their use in phylogenetic analysis. *Molecular Biology and Evolution* **17**: 540–552.
- Deml G, Oberwinkler F (1981) Studies in heterobasidiomycetes. Part 4. Investigations on *Entorrhiza casparyana* by light and electron microscopy. *Mycologia* **73**: 392–398.
- Denchev CM, Denchev TT (2012) New records of smut fungi. 6. Mycotaxon 121: 215–223.
- Fineran JM (1978) A taxonomic revision of the genus *Entorrhiza* C. Weber (*Ustilaginales*). *Nova Hedwigia* **30**: 1–68.
- Fineran JM (1980) The structure of galls induced by *Entorrhiza*C. Weber (*Ustilaginales*) on roots of the *Cyperaceae* and *Juncaceae*. *Nova Hedwigia* 32: 265–284.
- Gargas A, Taylor JW (1992) Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) primers for amplifying and sequencing nuclear 18S rDNA from lichenized fungi. *Mycologia* **84**: 589–592.
- Garnica S, Riess K, Bauer R, Oberwinkler F, Weiß M (2013) Phylogenetic diversity and structure of sebacinoid fungi associated with plant communities along an altitudinal gradient. FEMS Microbiology Ecology 83: 265–278.
- Göker M, Voglmayr H, Blázquez GG, Oberwinkler F (2009) Species delimitation in downy mildews: the case of *Hyaloperonospora* in the light of nuclear ribosomal ITS and LSU sequences. *Mycological Research* **113**: 308–325.
- Katoh K, Kuma K, Toh H, Miyata T (2005) MAFFT version 5: improvement in accuracy of multiple sequence alignment. *Nucleic Acids Research* **33**: 511–518.
- Katoh K, Standley DM (2013) MAFFT multiple sequence alignment software version 7: improvements in performance and usability. *Molecular Biology and Evolution* **30**: 772–780.

132

- Liu M, Hambleton S (2013) Laying the foundation for a taxonomic review of *Puccinia coronata* s.l. in a phylogenetic context. *Mycological Progress* **12**: 63–89.
- Lutz M, Piątek M, Kemler M, Chlebicki A, Oberwinkler F (2008) Anther smuts of *Caryophyllaceae*: molecular analyses reveal further new species. *Mycological Research* **112**: 1280–1296.
- Maddison WP, Maddison DR (2011) Mesquite: a modular system for evolutionary analysis. Version 2.75. http://mesquiteproject.org.
- McTaggart AR, Doungsaard C, Geering ADW, Aime MC, Shivas RG (2015) A co-evolutionary relationship exists between *Endoraecium* (*Pucciniales*) and its *Acacia* hosts in Australia. *Persoonia* **35**: 50–62.
- Piątek M, Lutz M, Chater AO (2013) Cryptic diversity in the Antherospora vaillantii complex on Muscari species. IMA Fungus 4: 5–19
- Piątek M, Lutz M, Ronikier A, Kemler M, Świderska-Burek U (2012) *Microbotryum heliospermae*, a new anther smut fungus parasitic on *Heliosperma pusillum* in the mountains of the European Alpine System. *Fungal Biology* **116**: 185–195.
- Ploch S, Telle S, Choi YJ, Cunnington JH, Priest M, et al. (2011) The molecular phylogeny of the white blister rust genus *Pustula* reveals a case of underestimated biodiversity with several undescribed species on ornamentals and crop plants. *Fungal Biology* **115**: 214–219.
- Ronquist F, Teslenko M, Van der Mark P, Ayres DL, Darling A, *et al.* (2012) MrBayes 3.2: efficient Bayesian phylogenetic inference and model choice across a large model space. *Systematic Biology* **61**: 539–542.
- Stamatakis A (2014) RAxML version 8: a tool for phylogenetic analysis and post-analysis of large phylogenies. *Bioinformatics* **30**: 1312–1313.
- Talbot PHB (1956) *Entorrhiza calospora* sp. nov., and some other parasitic fungi in *Limeum* roots. *Bothalia* **6**: 453–463.
- Vánky K (1994) European Smut Fungi. Jena: Gustav Fischer.

- Vánky K (2012) *Smut Fungi of the World*. St Paul, MN: American Phytopathological Society Press.
- Vánky K (2013) *Illustrated Genera of Smut Fungi*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edn. St Paul, MN: American Phytopathological Society Press.
- Vánky K, Bauer R, Begerow D (2007) *Talbotiomyces*, a new genus for *Entorrhiza calospora* (*Basidiomycota*). *Mycologia Balcanica* 4: 11–14.
- Vasighzadeh A, Zafari D, Selçuk F, Hüseyin E, Kurşat M, et al. (2014) Discovery of *Thecaphora schwarzmaniana* on *Rheum ribes* in Iran and Turkey: implications for the diversity and phylogeny of leaf smuts on rhubarbs. *Mycological Progress* **13**: 881–892.
- Vilgalys R, Hester M (1990) Rapid genetic identification and mapping of enzymatically amplified ribosomal DNA from several *Cryptococcus species*. *Journal of Bacteriology* **172**: 4238–4246.
- Voglmayr H, Montes-Borrego M, Landa BB (2014) Disentangling Peronospora on Papaver: phylogenetics, taxonomy, nomenclature and host range of downy mildew of opium poppy (Papaver somniferum) and related species. PLoS ONE 9: e96838
- Weiß M, Sýkorová Z, Garnica S, Riess K, Martos F, et al. (2011) Sebacinales everywhere: previously overlooked ubiquitous fungal endophytes. PLoS ONE 6: e16793.
- White TJ, Bruns TD, Lee S, Taylor J (1990) Amplification and sequencing of fungal ribosomal RNA genes for phylogenetics. In: *PCR Protocols: a guide to methods and applications* (Innis MA, Gefand DH, Sninsky JJ, White TJ, eds): 315–322. San Diego: Academic Press.
- Wikström N, Savolainen V, Chase MW (2001) Evolution of the angiosperms: Calibrating the family tree. *Proceedings of the Royal Society London B, Biological Sciences* **268**: 2211–2220.
- Zundel GL (1953) *The Ustilaginales of the World.* [Contribution no.176.] University Park, PN: Pennsylvania State College School of Agriculture.

VOLUME 6 · NO. 1 133