Endocarpon moenium belongs in Acarosporaceae

ANDERS NORDIN, LEIF TIBELL and BJÖRN OWE-LARSSON


ITS, LSU and mtSSU sequences indicate that Endocarpon moenium belongs in Acarosporaceae. The name Acarospora moenium (Vain.) Räsänen is available and could be adopted awaiting a more definite placement of the species.

Anders Nordin & Björn Owe-Larsson, Museum of Evolution, Uppsala University, Norbyvägen 16, SE-752 36 Uppsala, Sweden. E-mails: anders.nordin@evolmuseum.uu.se, bjorn.owe-larsson@ki.se

Leif Tibell, Department of Systematic Biology, Evolutionary Biology Centre, Uppsala University, Norbyvägen 18D, SE-752 36 Uppsala, Sweden. E-mail: leif.tibell@ebc.uu.se

In connection with an ongoing revision of Aspicilia (Nordin et al. 2007) we included ITS sequences of ‘Aspicilia moenium’ (Table 1) in phylogenetic analyses. These invariably placed ‘A. moenium’ outside Aspicilia. In blast searches at the NCBI home page (http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi) ‘A. moenium’ appeared in the Acarosporaceae, indicating that Räsänen (1936) was closer to the truth when transferring Endocarpon moenium Vain. to Acarospora than were Thor & Timdal (1992) when introducing Aspicilia moenium (Vain.) Thor & Timdal. Subsequently LSU and mtSSU sequences (Table 1) were produced from the same voucher specimens, and blast searches similarly pointed at Acarosporaceae for sequences with highest similarity.

Recently Räsänen’s combination was also accepted by Roux (2007), however without reference to molecular evidence, and this was followed by Ertz et al. (2008). According to Roux (pers. comm.) fertile material found in North America confirms the affinity to Acarospora.

Even though the generic position of the species has still not been properly investigated, it can be concluded that it does not belong to Aspicilia or to Megasporaceae. Awaiting a more definite placement, we think that the name Acarospora moenium (Vain.) Räsänen should be adopted ad interim.

Table 1. List of vouchers, sequences and GenBank accession numbers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voucher specimen</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Sequence</th>
<th>Accession number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nordin 5891, UPS</td>
<td>Sweden, Öland</td>
<td>ITS</td>
<td>FJ815428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>LSU</td>
<td>FJ815430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>mtSSU</td>
<td>FJ815432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tibell 23090, UPS</td>
<td>Sweden, Uppland</td>
<td>ITS</td>
<td>FJ815429</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>mtSSU</td>
<td>FJ815431</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Acknowledgements
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References
Räsänen, V. 1936. Lichenes Fenniae Exsiccati 306.

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For further information, contact Anders Nordin (anders.nordin@evolmuseum .uu.se).