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Two new species of *Diplococcium* from the tropics

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Abstract: Two new species of *Diplococcium* are described and illustrated. *Diplococcium aquaticum* sp. nov., from submerged wood in Australia, is distinct in the genus in having slender conidiophores and pyriform, uniseptate, bicolored conidia. *Diplococcium dendrocalami* sp. nov., from senescent culms of *Dendrocalamus* sp. in the Philippines, differs from other species in the genus in having robust, unbranched, attenuated conidiophores and oblong to ellipsoidal, thick-walled, 1–2-septate, large conidia.

Key Words: Hyphomycetes, litter fungi, systematics, taxonomy

The genera *Spadicoides* S. Hughes and *Diplococcium* Grove are closely related and have similar conidial ontogeny (Holubová-Jechová, 1982). In both genera, the conidiogenous cells are polytretic (Ellis, 1971b). When conidia detach, pores are clearly visible on the conidiogenous cells where the conidia are borne. Species in both genera produce conidia which are unicellular or have up to 7-eusepta. In many species, the septa are thick and darkly pigmented. The generic concepts of the two genera have been revised by Sinclair et al. (1985), and branching of conidiophores is not considered an important criterion separating them. Catenation of conidia is currently the sole diagnostic character separating *Diplococcium* from *Spadicoides* (Goh and Hyde, 1996; Sinclair et al., 1985).

There are presently 30 species described in *Diplococcium* (Castañeda Ruíz and Kendrick, 1991; Ellis, 1963, 1971a, 1971b, 1976; Holubová-Jechová, 1982; Hughes, 1958; Matsushima, 1993; Pirozynski, 1972; Sinclair et al., 1985; Subramanian and Sekar, 1989; Sutton, 1973; Wang and Sutton, 1982), some of which have been transferred to other genera (Ellis, 1971b, 1976; Hughes, 1958; Sinclair et al., 1985).

During our investigation of tropical microfungi, we have collected two *Diplococcium* species; one on submerged wood in a freshwater lake in north Queensland, Australia, and the other on a senescent bamboo culm in a tropical rain forest in Luzon, Philippines. These two *Diplococcium* species differ morphologically from other species in the genus and are, therefore, being described as new. Our attempts to grow these two new species in culture were not successful.

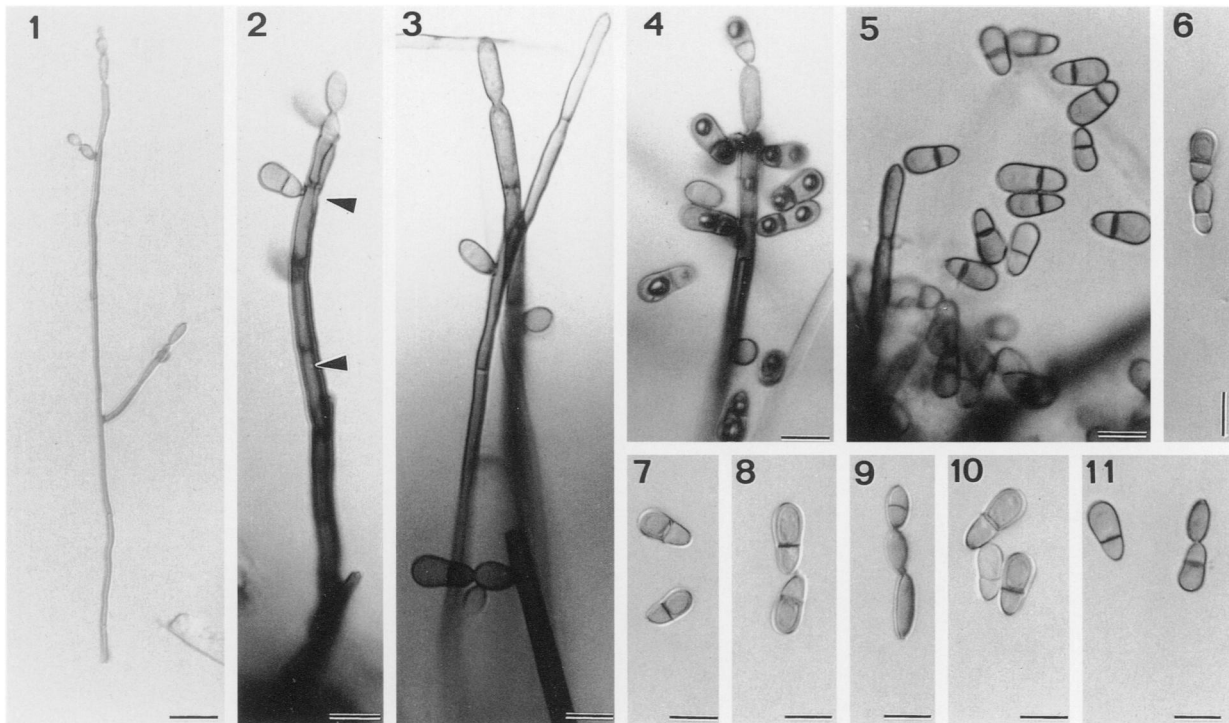
Diplococcium aquaticum Goh, K. D. Hyde et Umali, sp. nov. FIGS. 1–11

Coloniae in substrato naturale effusae, atrobrunneae. Mycelium partim superficiale et partim immersum, ex hyphis ramosis, subhyalinis vel pallide brunneis, laevibus, septatis, 1.5–2 µm latis compositum. Conidiophora ex substratis vel hyphis superficialibus singulatim oriunda, erecta, recta vel leniter flexuosa, sursum interdum nodulata, ad apicem rotundata, septata, ramosa, pallide brunnea vel modice brunnea, ad apicem leniter pallidiora, laevia, 80–180 × 2.5–3 µm, in latitudine uniformia. Cellulae conidiogenae in conidiophoris incorporatae, polytreticae, terminales et intercalares. Conidia (5–)7–13 × 4–5 µm, breve catenulata, ellipsoidea vel pyriformia, ad apicem late rotundata, laevia, plerumque uniseptata, septum atrum et excentricum ad basem propria, leniter constricta, bicoloria; cellula apicalis atro olivacea vel pallide brunnea, 5–6.5 × 4–5 µm; cellula basalis subhyalina vel pallidissime flavidobrunnea, 2.5–5 × 2.5–4 µm.

Etymology. *aquaticum*, referring to the habitat on wood submerged in freshwater.

HOLOTYPE. AUSTRALIA. QUEENSLAND: Atherton Tablelands, Lake Barrine, on submerged wood, 24 Apr. 1996, K. D. Hyde, LB20 (HKU(M) 3201).

Colonies on natural substratum effuse, dark brown. *Mycelium* partly superficial and partly immersed, composed of branched, subhyaline to pale brown, smooth, septate, 1.5–2 µm wide hyphae. *Setae* and *hyphopodia* absent. *Conidiophores* arising singly directly from the substratum or as lateral branches from the superficial mycelium, erect or ascending, straight or slightly flexuous, apical portion sometimes nodulate, rounded at the tip, septate, branched, pale brown to medium brown, slightly paler at the apex, smooth, 80–180 × 2.5–3 µm, uniform in width. *Conidiogenous cells* integrated, polytretic, terminal and intercalary. *Conidia* (5–)7–13 × 4–5 µm, borne in



FIGS. 1–11. *Diplococcium aquaticum* (from HOLOTYPE). 1. A branched conidiophore bearing developing conidia. 2–4. Close-up of apical portion of conidiophores with developing conidia. Note conidiogenous pores (arrowed) in 2. 5–11. Conidia. Scale bars: 1 = 20 μm ; 2–11 = 10 μm .

short chains, ellipsoidal to pyriform, broadly rounded at the apex, smooth, predominantly 1-septate, septum dark and eccentric (closer to the base), slightly constricted at the septum, bicolored; apical cell dark olivaceous to pale brown, $5\text{--}6.5 \times 4\text{--}5 \mu\text{m}$; basal cell subhyaline to very pale yellowish brown, $2.5\text{--}5 \times 2.5\text{--}4 \mu\text{m}$.

Teleomorph. Unknown.

This species is unique in the genus in having slender conidiophores (2.5–3 μm wide) and pyriform conidia. It is comparable to *D. graminearum* R. F. Castañeda & W. B. Kendr. (Castañeda Ruíz and Kendrick, 1991) which also produces uniseptate, bicolored conidia. The latter, however, differs in its unbranched conidiophores and obpyriform conidia, with a central septum. In *D. graminearum*, the basal cell of the conidia is darker than the apical cell.

Diplococcium dendrocalami Goh, K. D. Hyde et Umali, sp. nov. FIGS. 12–19

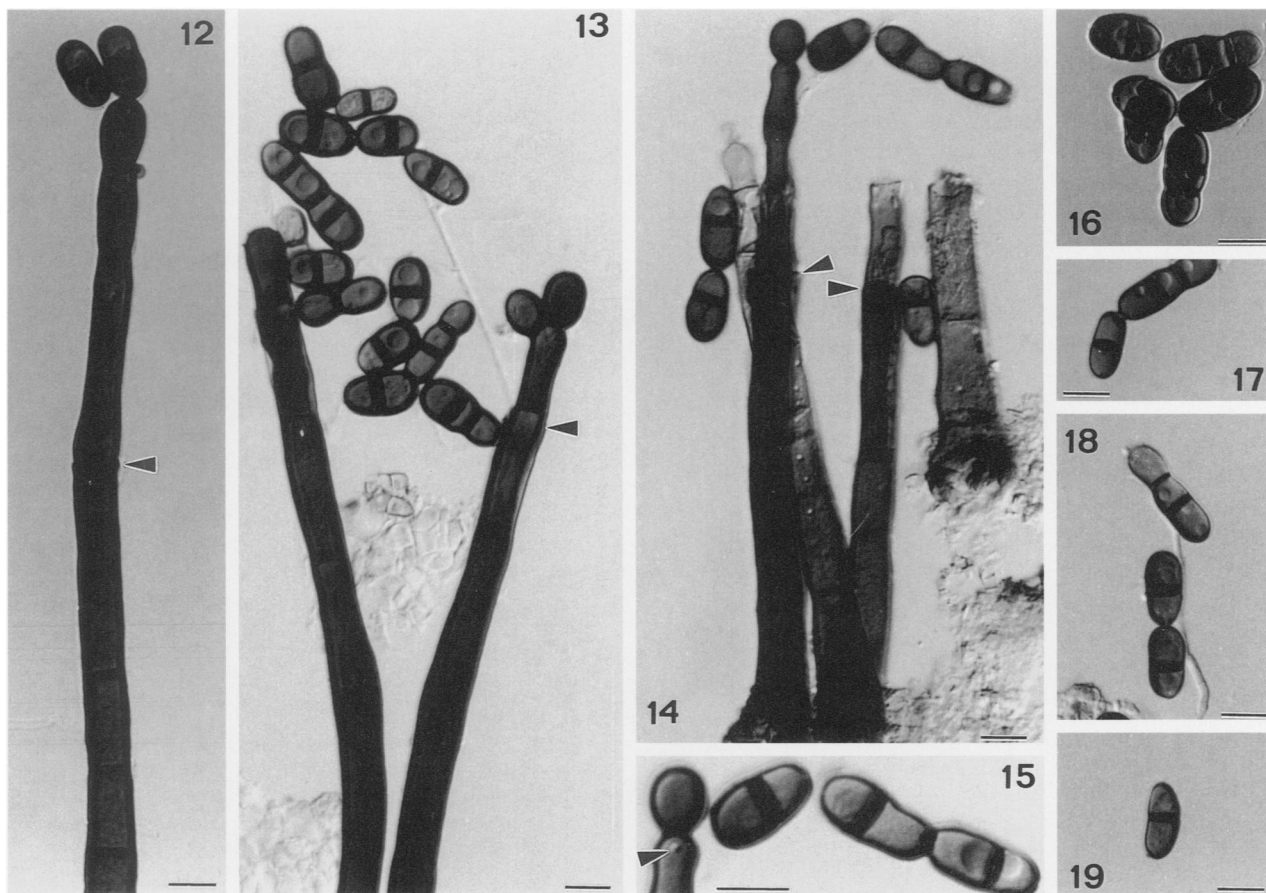
Coloniae in substrato naturale effusae, atro-brunneae. Mycelium immersum. Conidiophora solitaria vel 2–4 gregaria, non ramosa, erecta, recta, attenuata, 120–280 μm longa, deorsum 10–12 μm lata, apicem versus attenuata et sursum 7.5–9 μm lata, distincte 4–9-septata, crassitunicata, laevia, modice flavidobrunnea, in coloratione uniformia, cum regenerationibus percurrentibus interdum praedita. Cellu-

lae conidiogenae in conidiophoris incorporatae, polytrecae, terminales et intercalares vel interdum etiam basilares, pori ca 0.8 μm diam praeditae. Conidia breve catenulata, oblonga vel ellipsoidea, utrinque late rotundata, crassitunicata, laevia, plerumque 1(–2)-septata, raro 3-septata, illa uniseptata (12–)14–16(–17) \times 6–9 μm , illa biseptata 17–22 \times 6–9 μm , ad septa non constricta vel leniter constricta, modice flavidobrunnea, concoloria; septa ca 2 μm crassa et atra.

Etymology. *dendrocalami*, referring to its habitat on *Dendrocalamus*.

HOLOTYPE. PHILIPPINES. LUZON, LAGUNA: Los Baños, Mt. Makiling, on senescent culms of *Dendrocalamus* sp., Sep. 1995, T. E. Umali & F. Nono, TD118SP (HKU(M) 5800).

Colonies on natural substratum effuse, dark brown. *Mycelium* immersed. *Setae* and *hyphopodia* absent. *Conidiophores* arising singly or groups of 2–4, unbranched, erect, straight, attenuated, 120–280 μm long, 10–12 μm wide near the base, attenuate to 7.5–9 μm wide towards the apex, distinctly 4–9-septate, thick-walled, smooth, medium yellowish brown, uniform in color, sometimes with 1–2 percurrent regenerations. *Conidiogenous cells* integrated, polytreptic with pores ca 0.8 μm diam, terminal and intercalary, sometimes also basal. *Conidia* borne in short chains, oblong or ellipsoidal, broadly rounded at both ends, thick-



FIGS. 12–19. *Diplococcium dendrocalami* (from HOLOTYPE). 12–14. Conidiophores and conidia. Arrow heads show percurrent regeneration of the conidiophores. Note conidiogenous pores in 14. 15. Apex of a terminal conidiogenous cell with developing conidium and three uniseptate, mature conidia. Arrow head shows a conidiogenous pore. 16–19. Mature conidia with thick septa. Scale bars: 10 μ m.

walled, smooth, mostly 1(–2)-septate, occasionally 3-septate, not constricted or slightly constricted at the septa, medium yellowish brown, concolorous; septa ca 2 μ m thick and dark, usually with a visible central septal pore; uniseptate conidia (12–)14–16(–17) \times 6–9 μ m; 2-septate conidia 17–22 \times 6–9 μ m.

Teleomorph. Unknown.

Diplococcium dendrocalami somewhat resembles *D. clavariarum* (Desm.) Hol.-Jech. (Holubová-Jechová, 1982) since the conidia are approximately the same width, ellipsoidal, thick-walled, and have a thick dark septum. The latter, however, differs in having conidiophores which are chiefly branched and slender (3.5–6 μ m wide). *Diplococcium clavariarum* has been reported as a parasite on living carpophores of *Clavaria* species (Holubová-Jechová, 1982; Samuels et al., 1997), whereas *D. dendrocalami* has been found as a saprobe. *Diplococcium dendrocalami* is also comparable to *D. insolitum* Hol.-Jech. in which the conidiophores are attenuated and sometimes regenerate percurrently (Holubová-Jechová, 1982). However, the

conidia in *D. insolitum* are mainly 2-septate, tricolored, and broadly obclavate.

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