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A new wilt and die-back disease of *Acacia mangium* associated with *Ceratocystis manginecans* and *C. acaciivora sp. nov.* in Indonesia

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Abstract

Species of *Ceratocystis* are well-known wound related pathogens of many tree species, including commercially planted *Acacia* spp. Recently, several *Ceratocystis* isolates were collected from wilting *A. mangium* in plantations in Indonesia. The aim of this study was to identify these *Ceratocystis* isolates and to investigate their ability to cause disease on two plantation-grown *Acacia* spp. using greenhouse and field inoculation experiments. For identification, morphological characteristics and comparisons of DNA sequence data for the ITS, β -tubulin and TEF 1- α gene regions, was used. *Ceratocystis* isolates were identified as *C. manginecans*, a serious pathogen of mango trees in Oman and Pakistan and a previously undescribed species, described here as *C. acaciivora sp. nov*. Both fungi produced significant lesions in inoculation experiments on *A. mangium* and *A. crassicarpa*, however, *C. acaciivora* was most pathogenic suggesting that this fungus is the primary cause of the death of trees under natural conditions.

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Keywords: Plantation forestry; Quarantine threats; Tree disease

1. Introduction

Species of *Ceratocystis* have been reported to cause root rots, stem rots, vascular stains, cankers and fruit or pod rot on many plants but mainly trees in tropical parts of the world (Kile, 1993). *Ceratocystis fimbriata* Ellis & Halst *sensu lato* (s.l), for example causes disease and death of *Eucalyptus* trees in the Republic of Congo and Brazil (Roux et al., 2000), *Gmelina arborea* Roxb. and *Colocasia esculenta* (L.) Schott in Brazil (Harrington et al., 2005; Muchovej et al., 1978) and *Coffea* sp. in Colombia and Venezuela (Marin et al., 2003; Pontis, 1951). This fungus has also been reported to cause mango decline or 'seca' disease in Brazil (Ploetz, 2003; Ribeiro, 1980; Viegas, 1960) and it is considered one of the most important pathogens of agricultural and tree crops in South America.

In Indonesia Ceratocystis spp. were first noted when C. fimbriata (reported as Rostrella coffeae Zimm.) was reported in 1900 on Coffea arabica L. on the island of Java (Zimmerman, 1900). Subsequently, various species of Ceratocystis have been reported from other hosts on many Indonesian islands. Examples include C. fimbriata [reported as Sphaeronema fimbriatum (Ellis & Halst.) Sacc.] from Hevea brasiliensis Müll.Arg. in Sumatra, Kalimantan and Java (Leefmans, 1934; Tayler and Stephens, 1929; Wright, 1925), C. polychroma M. van Wyk, M.J. Wingf. & E.C.Y. Liew from Syzygium aromaticum (L.) Merrill & Perry in Sulawesi (Van Wyk et al., 2004) and C. tribiliformis M. van Wyk & M.J. Wingf. from Pinus merkusii Jungh. & de Vriese in Sumatra (Van Wyk et al., 2006a). Most recently, three previously unknown species of Ceratocystis, in the C. moniliformis s.l. group of the genus, were reported from artificially induced wounds on Acacia mangium Willd. trees in Indonesia (Tarigan et al., 2010). These fungi, C. inquinans Tarigan, M. van Wyk & M.J. Wingf., C. sumatrana Tarigan, M. van Wyk & M.J. Wingf. and C. microbasis Tarigan, M. van Wyk & M.J. Wingf., are not pathogens of A. mangium, similar to other fungi in the C.

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moniliformis s.l. clade, which are not known as pathogens, but as mild sapstain fungi (Kile, 1993; Tarigan et al., 2010).

As a result of an increased international demand for pulp and paper products, plantation industries are proliferating rapidly in many parts of the world including Indonesia (Anonymous, 2004; Barr, 2001). *A. mangium* and *A. crassicarpa* Cunn.: Benth., native to the eastern islands of Indonesia, northern Queensland and the western Province of Papua New Guinea (Doran and Skelton, 1982; Moran et al., 1989; Turnbull, 1986), are two of the most widely planted trees in Indonesia. While these trees have displayed excellent growth in the region, they have also been negatively affected by various diseases (Old et al., 2000; Potter et al., 2006). This is typical of plantation industries based on non-native species separated from their natural enemies but that are increasingly damaged by pests and diseases (Wingfield et al., 2008).

Ceratocystis spp. have increasingly been reported as the cause of wilt and canker of plantation-grown Acacia spp. in many areas, world-wide (Roux and Wingfield, 2009). In Brazil, C. fimbriata s.l. has been reported to cause canker and wilt of A. decurrens Willd. (Ribeiro et al., 1988) and in South Africa, C. albifundus M.J. Wingf., De Beer & Morris is considered the most important pathogen of plantation-grown A. mearnsii De Wild. and A. decurrens trees (Morris et al., 1993; Roux and Wingfield, 1997; Roux et al., 1999; Wingfield et al., 1996). During the course of recent disease surveys in A. mangium plantations in Indonesia, significant mortality of young trees showing rapid wilt symptoms was observed. Isolates of a Ceratocystis sp. were collected from stained vascular tissue on these trees. The aim of this study was to identify these Ceratocystis isolates and to consider their ability to cause disease on two plantation-grown Acacia spp. using greenhouse and field inoculation experiments.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Disease and fungal isolates

Wilt and canker symptoms were commonly observed on young *A. mangium* trees in plantations. The bark and the wood surrounding the cankers were discolored and had a black appearance due to the exudation of gum. The discolored wood typically had a streaked appearance, turning a uniform dark brown to dark blue color with age (Fig. 1). Affected trees ranged from 8 to 12 months in age. The disease was observed in several plantation areas, including Teso, Logas and Pelalawan, all in the Riau Province of Sumatra. All diseased trees had been pruned 6–12 weeks earlier and lesions appeared to originate from these wounds, suggesting the involvement of a wound colonizing pathogen.

Twenty *A. mangium* trees were selected randomly and sampled in plantations at Teso and Logas. Sections of discolored wood and bark were cut from the leading edges of cankers. These were then wrapped in newspaper to maintain moisture, and taken to the laboratory for examination.

Single spore drops, characteristic of *Ceratocystis* spp., were collected directly from fungal fruiting bodies from the diseased

samples onto 2% (w/v) Malt Extract Agar (MEA) (Biolab, Midrand, South Africa). Where no fruiting structures were visible, a subset of samples was placed in plastic bags containing moistened tissue paper for 4–10 days to induce sporulation. Another subset of samples was baited for *Ceratocystis* spp. using carrot slices (Moller and De Vay, 1968). Symptomatic wood pieces were wrapped between carrot slices that had first been immersed for 10 min in a 0.001 g/vol streptomycin sulfate solution (SIGMA, Steinheim, Germany) and then placed in plastic bags and incubated for 3–5 days, or until fruiting bodies were observed.

Isolates collected in this study are maintained in the culture collection (CMW) of the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria, South Africa. Representative isolates have also been deposited in the culture collection of the Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures (CBS), Delft, Netherlands and dried specimens were deposited at the National Fungal Herbarium of South Africa (PREM), Pretoria.

For the current study, we included unidentified isolates collected from a previous study (Tarigan et al., 2010) which resembled those that we found from diseased *A. mangium* in this study. These included 10 isolates from artificially wounded *A. crassicarpa* trees at Teso and 21 isolates from *A. mangium* trees wounded in Pelalawan. These 31 isolates were not identified in the study by Tarigan et al. (2010), since they did not belong to the *C. moniliformis* s.l group of fungi on which they focused in that study.

2.2. DNA extractions

Eleven isolates of the *Ceratocystis* spp. from *A. mangium* and *A. crassicarpa* were selected randomly and grown on 2% MEA at 22 °C for two weeks. The mycelium was scraped off the surface of the agar using sterilized scalpel blades and transferred to 1.5 mL Eppendorf tubes and lyophilized overnight. The lyophilized mycelium was crushed to a fine powder using a glass rod or mechanical grinder (Ball mills machine, Retsch, Haan, Germany). The DNA was extracted using the method described by Van Wyk et al. (2006b).

2.3. PCR amplification, sequencing and analyses

The Internal Transcribed Spacer regions (ITS), including the 5.8S gene of the ribosomal DNA (rDNA) operon, part of the β -tubulin (BT) and Transcription Elongation factor 1- α (TEF) gene regions were amplified using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and an iCycler thermocycler (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA). Amplification of the gene regions were made using the primers ITS1 and ITS4 (White et al., 1990), β t1a and β t1b (Glass and Donaldson, 1995) and EF1-728F and EF1-986R (Jacobs et al., 2004) respectively. PCR reaction mixtures consisted of 0.5 μ L of each primer (10 mM), 2 μ L of 10 mM dNTP mixture (2.5 mM of each dNTP), 0.5 μ L DNA Fast Start Taq enzyme (Roche Molecular Biochemicals, Almeda California), 2.5 μ L of a 10× concentration buffer containing MgCl₂ (3.5 mM), 2 μ L of DNA template (2–10 ng) and 17 μ L sabax water to make up 25 μ L total



Fig. 1. Disease symptoms caused by *Ceratocystis acaciivora sp. nov.* and *C. manginecans* on *A. mangium* trees in Indonesia. a. Wilting and death of trees; b, c. Bark discoloration, gum exudation and cankers on stems of diseased trees; d. Wood below the cankers was discolored, often in streaked patterns, but later turning a uniform dark brown to dark blue color.

volume reactions. The PCR program, product visualization and DNA purification were carried out following methods described by Van Wyk et al. (2006b).

An ABI PRISMTM Big DYE Terminator Cycle Sequencing Ready Reaction Kit (Applied BioSystems, Foster City, California) was used to sequence the purified PCR amplicons in both the forward and reverse directions. Sequencing of each gene region was done using the same primers as those used for the PCR reactions. After cleaning the sequence products using the same protocol as those used for the PCR reactions, the final sequence products were run on an ABI PRISMTM 3100 Autosequencer (Applied BioSystems, Foster City, California). Sequence Navigator version 1.0.1 (Applied BioSystems, Foster City, California) was used to analyze the sequence electropherograms. Using Blast analyses, the sequences obtained were compared with sequences of *Ceratocystis* spp. that are available in GenBank (The National Centre for Biological Information, http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/) (Table 1). The online version of MAFFT (Katoh et al., 2002) version 6 (http://align.bmr.kyushuu.ac.zp/mafft/online/server/) was used to align the sequences of the Indonesian isolates with published sequences of closely related species identified using Blast and the alignments were then checked manually. A partition homogeneity test was run using PAUP (Phylogenetic Analysis Using Parsimony) version 4.0b10* to determine whether the data for the three gene regions could be combined into a single data set (Swofford, 2002). Data for each data set were analyzed using PAUP version 4.0b10* (Swofford, 2002).

Table 1
Ceratocystis isolates considered in the phylogenetic analyses.

Species	Isolate no.	GenBank accession no.	Host	Geographical origin	Collector
C. acaciivora	CMW22562	EU588655	Acacia mangium	Indonesia	M. Tarigan
c. acachrora		EU588635	8		8
		EU588645			
C. acaciivora	CMW22563	EU588656	A. mangium	Indonesia	M. Tarigan
		EU588636	0		-
		EU588646			
C. acaciivora	CMW22564	EU588657	A. mangium	Indonesia	M. Tarigan
		EU588637	-		-
		EU588647			
C. acaciivora	CMW22595	EU588660	A. mangium	Indonesia	M. Tarigan
		EU588639			
		EU588649			
C. acaciivora	CMW22621	EU588661	A. mangium	Indonesia	M. Tarigan
		EU588640			
		EU588650			
C. albifundus	CMW4068	DQ520638	A. mearnsii	RSA	J. Roux
		EF070429			
		EF070400			
C. albifundus	CMW5329	AF388947	A. mearnsii	Uganda	J. Roux
	CBS141.37	DQ371649			
		EF070401			
		EF070442			
		EF070394			
C. atrox	CMW19383	EF070414	Eucalyptus grandis	Australia	M.J. Wingfield
	CBS120517	EF070430			
		EF070402			
C. atrox	CMW19385	EF070415	E. grandis	Australia	M.J. Wingfield
	CBS120518	EF070431			
		EF070403			
C. cacaofunesta	CMW15051	DQ520636	Theobroma cacao	Cost Rica	A.J. Hansen
	CBS152.62	EF070427			
		EF070398			
C. cacaofunesta	CMW14809	DQ520637	T. cacao	Ecuador	C. Suarez
	CBS115169	EF070428			
~	CD CT 1 4000	EF070399	<i>c</i>		
C. caryae	CMW14808	EF070423	Carya ovata	U.S.A	J. Johnson
	CBS115168	EF070440			
a	C) (1) 1 1702	EF070411			T T 1
C. caryae	CMW14793	EF070424	C. cordiformis	U.S.A	J. Johnson
	CBS114716	EF070439			
	0.0002221	EF070412			
C. colombiana	CMW5751	AY177233	Coffea arabica	Colombia	M. Marin
	CBS121792	AY177225			
C. colombiana	CMW5761	EU241490	Soil in citrus orchid	Colombia	D. Costro
	CMW5761	AY177234	Soli in citrus orchid	Colombia	B. Castro
	CBS121791	AY177224			
C. Combuinta	CMW1547	EU241492	Le our o og hatatag	Domino Norre Chinos	E.C. Makanzia
C. fimbriata	CIVI W 1347	AF264904 EF070443	Ipomoea batatas	Papua New Guinea	E.C. McKenzie
		EF070395			
7 fimbriata	CMW15040		I. batatas	USA	F.C. Andrus
C. fimbriata	CMW15049	DQ520629 EF070442	1. Dutatus	USA	F.C. Allurus
7 fimbriatomin -	CMW04174	EF070394 EF190963	Fugaburtus	Venezuela	M.J. Wingfield
C. fimbriatomima	CMW24174 CBS121786	EF190963 EF190951	Eucalyptus sp.	venezueia	wi.j. wingheid
	CD3121/80				
C. Combainter in a	CMW24176	EF190957 EF190964	Fuadontus an	Venezuela	MI Winofield
C. fimbriatomima		EF190964 EF190952	Eucalyptus sp.	venezueia	M.J. Wingfield
	CBS121787	EF190952 EF190958			
C	CMW12051	EF190958 AY953383	Manaifour indian	Omen	M. Deadman
C. manginecans	CMW13851	EF433308	Mangifera indica	Oman	IVI. Deauman

(continued on next page)

Table 1 (continued)

Species	Isolate no.	GenBank accession no.	Host	Geographical origin	Collector
		EF433317			
C. manginecans	CMW13852	AY953384	Hypocryphalus mangifera	Oman	M. Deadman
		EF433309	×1 ×1 ·································		
		EF433318			
C. manginecans CMW13	CMW13854	AY953385	M. indica	Oman	M. Deadman
	0111110001	EF433310		Oman	
		EF433319			
C. manginecans CMW225'	CMW22579	EU588658	A. mangium	Indonesia	M. Tarigan
	0111122075	EU588638	II. mangrum	indonesia	ini. Turigun
		EU588648			
C. manginecans	CMW22581	EU588659	A. mangium	Indonesia	M. Tarigan
C. manginecans	0111122001	EU604671	II. mangrum	indonesia	ini. Turigun
		EU604670			
C. manginecans	CMW21123	EU588662	A. crassicarpa	Indonesia	M. Tarigan
C. manginecans	CIVI W 21123	EU588641	A. crussicurpu	Indonesia	wi. Tangan
		EU588651			
C. manginecans	CMW21125	EU588663	A. crassicarpa	Indonesia	M. Tarigan
. manginecans	CIMIW21123	EU588642	A. crassicarpa	indonesia	wi. Tarigan
		EU588642 EU588652			
a manainessana	CMW21127		1 ananciaam -	Indonesia	M Torican
C. manginecans	CIVIW2112/	EU588664	A. crassicarpa	muonesia	M. Tarigan
		EU588643			
7	CM001122	EU588653	1	Indone-:-	MT
C. manginecans	CMW21132	EU588665	A. crassicarpa	Indonesia	M. Tarigan
		EU588644			
<i>c</i> ·	CM1022(29	EU588654		D-1-i-t-u	A A1 A 1 '
C. manginecans	CMW23628	EF433303	Hypocryphalus mangifera	Pakistan	A. Al-Adawi
		EF433312			
- ·		EF433321			
C. manginecans	CMW23634	EF433302	M. indica	Pakistan	A. Al-Adawi
		EF433311			
C. manginecans	~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	EF433320		D .11.	
	CMW23641	EF433305	M. indica	Pakistan	A. Al-Adawi
		EF433314			
		EF433323			
C. manginecans	CMW23643	EF433304	M. indica	Pakistan	A. Al-Adawi
		EF433313			
		EF433322			
C. neglecta	CMW11284	EF127988	Eucalyptus sp.	Colombia	M.J. Wingfield
	CBS121789	EU881898			
		EU881904			
C. neglecta C. obpyriformis	CMW11285	EF127989	Eucalyptus sp.	Colombia	M.J. Wingfield
	CBS121017	EU881899			
		EU881905			
	CMW23807	EU245004	A. mearnsii	South Africa	R.N. Heath
		EU244976			
		EU244936			
C. obpyriformis	CMW23808	EU245003	A. mearnsii	South Africa	R.N. Heath
		EU244975			
		EU244935			
C. papilata	CMW8857	AY233868	Annana muriata	Colombia	M.J. Wingfield
-		AY233878			-
		EU241483			
C. papilata	CMW8856	AY233867	Citrus sp.	Colombia	B. Castro
	CBS121793	AY233874			
C. platani		EU241484			
	CMW14802	DQ520630	Platanus occidentalis	U.S.A	T.C. Harrington
	CBS115162	EF070425			0
		EF070396			
C. platani	CMW23918	EF426554	Platanus sp.	Greece	M.J. Wingfield
		EF070426	op.	*	in mgriota
		EF070397			
C. pirilliformis	CMW6569	AF427105	E. nitens	Australia	M.J.Wingfield
. pu unjoi nus	0.111110.000	DQ371652	L. mucho	110010110	141.9. Willgilolu
		DQ3/1032			

Table 1 (continued)

Species	Isolate no.	GenBank accession no.	Host	Geographical origin	Collector
C. pirilliformis	CMW6579	AF427105 DQ371653	E. nitens	Australia	M.J. Wingfield
C. polyconidia	CMW23809	AY528983 EU245006 EU244978	A. mearnsii	South Africa	R.N. Heath
C. polyconidia	CMW23818	EU244938 EU245007 EU244979	A. mearnsii	South Africa	R.N. Heath
C. polycroma	CMW11424 CBS115778	EU244939 AY528970 AY528966	Syzygium aromaticum	Indonesia	M.J. Wingfield
C. polycroma	CMW11436 CBS115777	AY528978 AY528971 AY528967	S. aromaticum	Indonesia	M.J. Wingfield
C. populicola	CMW14789 CBS119.78	AY528979 EF070418 EF070434	Populus sp.	Poland	J. Gremmen
C. populicola	CMW14819 CBS114725	EF070406 EF070419 EF070435	Populus sp.	U.S.A	T. Hinds
C. smalleyi	CMW14800 CBS114724	EF070407 EF070420 EF070436	C. cordiformis	U.S.A	G. Smalley
C. smalleyi	CMW26383 CBS114724	EF070408 EU426553 EU426555	C. cordiformis	USA	G. Smalley
C. tanganyicensis	CMW15992	EU426556 EU244999 EU244971	A. mearnsii	Tanzania	R.N. Heath & J. Roux
C. tanganyicensis	CMW15999	EU244931 EU244998 EU244970	A. mearnsii	Tanzania	R.N. Heath & J. Roux
C. tsitsikammensis	CMW14276	EU244939 EF408555 EF408569	Rapanea melanophloeos	South Africa	G. Kamgan Nkuekam & J. Roux
C. tsitsikammensis	CMW14278	EF408576 EF408556 EF408570	R. melanophloeos	South Africa	G. Kamgan Nkuekam & J. Roux
C. variospora	CMW20935 CBS114715	EF408577 EF070421 EF070437	Quercus alba	U.S.A	J. Johnson
C. variospora	CMW20936 CBS114714	EF070410 EF070422 EF070438	Q. robur	U.S.A	J. Johnson
C. virescens	CMW3276	EF070410 AY528984 AY528990	Quercus sp.	USA	T. Hinds
C. virescens	CMW11164	AY5289991 DQ520639 EF070441	Fagus americanum	USA	D. Houston
C. zombamontana	CMW15235	EF070413 EU245002 EU244974 EU244924	Eucalyptus sp.	Malawi	R.N. Heath & J. Roux
	CMW15236	EU244934 EU245000 EU244972 EU244932	Eucalyptus sp.	Malawi	R.N. Heath & J. Roux

Gaps were treated as "fifth base" and trees were obtained via stepwise addition of 1000 replicates with the Mulpar option in effect. Bootstrap confidence intervals, using 1000 replicates, were calculated. Two *Ceratocystis virescens* isolates were used as the out-group taxa. MrBayes version 3.1.1. (Ronquist and

Huelsenbeck, 2003) was used to run Bayesian analyses on the combined data set. The Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) algorithm was used to calculate support of the nodes of the phylogenetic trees based on Bayesian posterior probabilities. The model of nucleotide substitution for each gene region was

determined using MrModeltest2 (Nylander, 2004), and the models obtained were used in the Bayesian analysis. One million random trees were generated with four chains and sampled every 100th generation following the MCMC procedure. Samples were taken only from trees after convergence and trees outside the point of convergence were discarded.

2.4. Culture characteristics and morphology

Three isolates from each of the groups identified based on DNA sequence comparisons were grown on 2% MEA for two weeks at 22 °C for growth studies. A five-millimeter diameter cork borer was used to cut discs of mycelium from the margins of actively growing cultures. These were placed at the centers of 90 mm diameter Petri dishes containing 2% MEA. Discs for each isolate were placed at the centers of five plates and incubated at 4 °C and from 10 °C to 35 °C at 5 °C intervals. Two measurements of colony diameter, at right angles to each other, were taken two days after incubation and averages for all measurements were computed. The entire experiment was repeated once. Data from both studies were combined and analyzed statistically using analysis of variance (ANOVA).

Two-week-old cultures grown on 2% MEA were used to describe the morphological characteristics of the isolates. Fruiting structures were mounted in lactic acid (85%) for observation and measurements. Fifty measurements of all characteristic structures from each representative isolate (extype) and 10 measurements for one additional isolate in each group, were made with a Carl Zeiss microscope and a Zeiss Axiovision camera system (Oberkochen, Germany). The average (mean), standard deviation (stdv), maximum (max) and minimum (min) measurements were calculated and they are presented as follows: (min–) mean minus stdv–mean plus stdv (–max). The color of the cultures was described using the color charts of Rayner (1970).

2.5. Pathogenicity tests

2.5.1. Greenhouse inoculations

Pathogenicity tests were carried out on one-year-old A. mangium and A. crassicarpa seedlings (~15 mm diam.) in a greenhouse. Trees were grown in 20 cm diameter plastic bags containing a mixture of topsoil and compost. The temperature and humidity of the greenhouse was adjusted to ~ 30 °C and 65% respectively for optimum growth of the seedlings. Five isolates (CMW22563, CMW22564, CMW22581, CMW22595, and CMW22621) representing Group 1 and four isolates representing Group 2 (CMW21123, CMW21125, CMW21127, and CMW21132) identified using DNA sequence data were used for the inoculations. Five seedlings of each Acacia sp. were used for each isolate. Wounds were made on the stems of the seedlings using a cork borer (4 mm diam.) and an agar disc taken from an actively growing colony on 2% MEA, with the mycelium facing downwards, was placed in the wound. These were covered with Parafilm (Pechiney, Menasha, Wisconsin) to reduce contamination and desiccation. Five plants of each tree species were inoculated with sterile MEA plugs to serve as controls.

The Parafilm was removed from the stems of treated plants 10 days after inoculation and the lengths of the lesions produced in the xylem were measured. Pieces of symptomatic stem tissue were taken from the inoculated trees and these were placed into moist chambers and also baited using carrots as described previously, to induce the production of fruiting structures. Spores from these structures were then transferred to 2% MEA to verify their identity. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was calculated for all data obtained using SAS statistical analyses (SAS, 2001).

2.5.2. Field inoculations

One-year-old *A. mangium* and *A. crassicarpa* trees growing in plantations in Riau Province of Sumatra, ranging in diameter from 70 mm to 90 mm were used in field pathogenicity tests. Inoculations were made on the stems, 1.3 m from the ground. Three isolates from each of the two *Ceratocystis* groups, found to be the most pathogenic in the greenhouse tests were used for field inoculations. Twenty trees of each *Acacia* sp. were used for each isolate and an equal number of trees were inoculated as controls. Prior to inoculation, a wound was made on the tree stems using a sterilized cork borer (10 mm diam.) and inoculations were carried out using the same technique as described for the greenhouse trials. Control inoculations were made using sterile 2% MEA plugs. After inoculation, the wounds were sealed with masking tape to reduce contamination and desiccation of the inoculum and wounds.

Six weeks after inoculation, the tree diameter at the inoculation point and the length of lesions produced on the stems were measured. Pieces of symptomatic tissue from the area associated with the inoculation points for a representative set of trees and isolates were taken and placed in moist chambers to induce sporulation and to confirm that the lesions were associated with the inoculated fungus. The entire field inoculation trial was repeated once. Data obtained were analyzed with analysis of variance (ANOVA) using SAS statistical analyses (SAS, 2001).

3. Results

3.1. Fungal isolates

A total of 46 *Ceratocystis* isolates were obtained from diseased *A. mangium* trees at Teso and Logas (Fig. 1). Within two weeks, they produced mature ascomata containing hat-shaped ascospores and a *Thielaviopsis* anamorph when grown on 2% MEA. These isolates resembled the 31 isolates obtained from the culture collection (CMW) and collected during a previous study by Tarigan et al. (2010).

3.2. PCR amplification, sequencing and analyses

For both the ITS and BT gene regions, PCR amplification resulted in fragments of \sim 500 base pairs (bp) in size, while for the TEF gene region, amplification resulted in fragments of \sim 800 bp

in size. Blast searches in GenBank indicated that isolates from Indonesia grouped within the *C. fimbriata*. s.l species complex and were most closely related to *C. manginecans* M. van Wyk, A Al-Adawi, & M.J. Wingf. The partition homogeneity test for the three data sets from ITS, BT and TEF resulted in a P value of 0.01, which is an acceptable level (Barker and Lutzoni, 2002; Cunningham, 1997) to combine the data. The combined data set consisted of a total of 1946 characters, including gaps. The dataset contained 1139 constant characters, 56 parsimonyuninformative characters and 751 parsimony-informative characters. Twenty most parsimonious trees were obtained of which one (Fig. 2) was selected for presentation. This tree had a length of 1855 steps, a consistency index (CI)=0.66, a homoplasy index (HI)=0.34, a retention index (RI)=0.86 and a rescaled consistency index (RC)=0.58.

Model test analysis resulted a HKY+G model [Prset statefreqpr=dirichlet (1, 1, 1, 1); Lset nst=2 rates=gamma] for the ITS gene region, GTR+G model [Prset statefreqpr=dirichlet (1, 1, 1, 1); Lset nst=6 rates=gamma] for the BT gene region, while for TEF it produced a HKY+I+G model [Prset

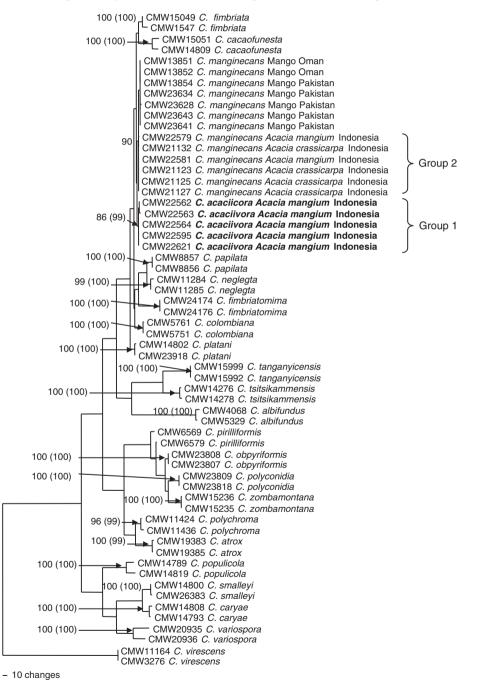


Fig. 2. A phylogenetic tree based on the combined sequence data of three gene regions; ITS, β t and TEF1- α , showing relationships between *C. fimbriata* s.l. used in this study. Isolates in bold were isolated from *A. crassicarpa* and *A. mangium* in Indonesia and sequenced as part of this study. The phylogram was obtained using the heuristic search option based on parsimony. Bootstrap values are indicated at the branches and Bayesian values follow in the brackets. Two isolates of *C. virescens* were selected as the out-group.

statefreqpr=dirichlet (1, 1, 1, 1); Lset nst=2 rates=invgamma]. These models were used in the Bayesian analyses. The first 2000 trees obtained with Bayesian analyses were discarded following the burn-in procedure. Both Bootstrap and Bayesian values were attached to the posterior probability of the branch nodes of the combined dataset (Fig. 2).

The isolates from *Acacia* in Indonesia resided within the larger *C. fimbriata* s.l. species complex, forming two subclades, designated Group 1 and Group 2 (Fig. 2), and most closely related to *C. manginecans*. The Group 1 (CMW22562, CMW22563, CMW22564, CMW22595, and CMW22621) isolates formed a well resolved and distinct group. They had posterior probability support for the branch nodes of 86% and 99% Bootstrap and Bayesian values respectively. Group 2 (CMW21123, CMW21125, CMW21127, CMW21132, CMW22579, and CMW22581) had no Bootstrap or Bayesian support and this sub-clade grouped with *C. manginecans* with a Bootstrap support of 90%.

3.3. Culture characteristics and morphology

Ceratocystis isolates from A. mangium and A. crassicarpa in Indonesia were similar in culture characteristics and morphology, however some differences were also found. Group 1 isolates grew slightly faster than those representing Group 2. Isolates of both groups showed similar responses to temperature, all having optimal growth at 25 °C. Group 1 isolates reached a diameter of 34 mm and Group 2 isolates reached 29 mm in seven days. For all isolates, growth was limited at 15 °C and no growth occurred at 4 °C, 10 °C or 35 °C. Both of the Indonesian groups and C. manginecans have similar responses to temperature, all having optimal growth at 25 °C, however C. manginecans has a lighter culture color. Cultures representing both groups of isolates were olive green (23 m) and produced both teleomorph and anamorph structures within 1-2 weeks. When the cultures were placed in sealed plastic boxes, they produced a weak fruity aroma which disappeared when the boxes had been opened for some time.

Ceratocystis isolates from Indonesia were typical of *Ceratocystis* spp. They had black ascomatal bases that were globose to sub globose in shape. All isolates produced ascomatal necks with divergent ostiolar hyphae at their tips, from which hat-shaped ascospores exuded. Group 1 isolates had smaller ascomatal bases and shorter necks than those in Group 2 and *C. manginecans*. Group 2 isolates had ascomatal bases and ascomatal necks within the same size ranges when compared to *C. manginecans*, supporting DNA sequence data, which suggested that these isolates represent *C. manginecans*.

3.4. Pathogenicity tests

3.4.1. Greenhouse inoculations

Ten days after inoculation, all *Ceratocystis* isolates used in the pathogenicity trials produced distinct lesions on *A. crassicarpa* and *A. mangium* seedlings. The lesion lengths ranged from 17 to 345 mm on *A. crassicarpa* and 14 to 151 mm on *A. mangium*. Isolates representing Group 1 produced longer lesions on both *A. crassicarpa* and *A. mangium* compared to those of Group 2 (*C. manginecans*). Two isolates (CMW21123 and CMW21132) representing Group 2 consistently produced only small lesions that were not significantly different to the controls. *Ceratocystis* isolates were consistently re-isolated from the treated plants but they were not retrieved from the controls. Three of the most pathogenic isolates from Group 1 (CWM22563, CMW22564, and CMW22132) were selected for field inoculation studies.

3.4.2. Field inoculations

Within six weeks of inoculation, all Ceratocystis isolates produced lesions both on A. mangium and A. crassicarpa trees. The lesion lengths ranged from 100 to 660 mm on A. crassicarpa and 130 to 680 mm on A. mangium in the first trial (Fig. 3). In the second trial the lesions ranged from 80 to 580 mm on A. crassicarpa and 70 to 290 mm on A. mangium (Fig. 4). Although lesions in the second trial were smaller than those in the first trial, both trials produced similar trends where all isolates in Group 1, except CMW22621, consistently produced longer lesions, both on A. crassicarpa and A. mangium, than isolates in Group 2 (Figs. 3, 4). Isolate CMW21125 (Group 2) consistently produced significantly longer lesions compared to the controls on A. crassicarpa and A. mangium in both trials. Other isolates (CMW21127 and CMW21132) residing in Group 2 (C. manginecans) consistently produced lesions that were significantly larger than those of the controls when inoculated into A. crassicarpa in both trials, but they produced lesions that were not significantly different to the controls when they were inoculated on A. mangium trees. Re-isolation from lesions on inoculated trees consistently yielded Ceratocystis isolates that were morphologically similar to the test fungi. No Ceratocystis isolates were isolated from the control trees.

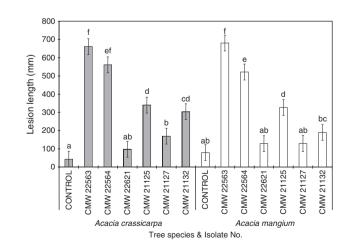


Fig. 3. Lesion lengths associated with the first set of inoculations using *C. acaciivora prov. nom.* (CMW22563, CMW22564, and CMW22621) and *C. manginecans* (CMW21125, CMW21127, and CMW21132) on one-year-old *A. mangium* and *A. crassicarpa* trees in an Indonesian plantation, six weeks after inoculation. Bars on the graph indicated with the same letter are not significantly different from each other (P value=0.05).

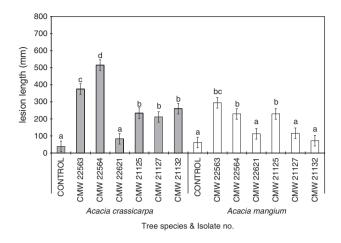


Fig. 4. Lesion lengths associated with the second set of inoculations using *C. acaciivora prov. nom.* (CMW22563, CMW22564, and CMW22621) and *C. manginecans* (CMW21125, CMW21127, and CMW21132) on one-year-old *A. mangium* and *A. crassicarpa* trees in an Indonesian plantation, six weeks after inoculation. Bars on the graph indicated with the same letter are not significantly different from each other (P value=0.05).

4. Taxonomy

Based on morphology and DNA sequence comparisons, it was clear that *Ceratocystis* isolates in Group 1 from diseased *A. mangium* in Indonesia represent an undescribed taxon. It is consequently described as follows:

Ceratocystis acaciivora Tarigan & M. van Wyk sp. nov. MB 513076 (Fig. 5)

Etymology: The name refers to the ability of this fungus to infect *Acacia* sp.

Stat.conid.: Thielaviopsis

Coloniae olivaceae, mycelium aerium. Hyphae leaves, septis non constrictis. Bases ascomatum pallide brunneae, atrobrunneae vel nigrae, globosae vel subglobosae (105–) 131–175 (–206) µm longae, (107–) 125–167 (–188) µm latae, hyphis ornatae. Colla ascomatum atrobrunnea vel nigra, apicem versus pallentia (301–) 348–448 (–522) µm longa, basi (25–) 33–45 (–53) µm, apice (11–) 13–17 (–20) µm lata, basi discoidea. Hyphae ostiolares divergentes hyalinae (30–) 35–49 (–60) µm longae. Asci non visi. Ascosporae in massis fulvo-flavescentibus mucosis in apicibus collorum ascomatum. Ascosporae lateraliter visae cucullatae hyalinae, non septatae, vaginis inclusae, $5-7 \times 3-4$ µm cum vagina, $4-6 \times 3-4$ µm sine illa.

Anamorpha Thielaviopsis: conidiophorae primariae in mycelio singulae, hyalinae, basi incrassatae, apicem versus angustatae, (53-) 61–95 (-127) µm longae, basi 4–6 µm, medio (2–) 5–7 (-8) µm, apice 3–6 µm latae. Conidiophorae secondariae in mycelio singulae hyalinae (52–) 57–69 (-68) µm longae, basi (3–) 2–4 (-5) µm, apice 4–6 µm latae. Conidia biformia: primaria hyalina cylindrica non septata (11–) 14–22 (-29)×3– 5 µm; secondaria hyalina doliiformia non septata (8–) 9–11 (-13)×4–6 µm. Chlamydosporae ovales, parietibus crassis, laeves, brunneae, (10–) 12–14 (-15)×(7–) 8–12 (-14) µm, in agaro inclusae, terminales, singulae vel in catenis.

Typus: Indonesia: Sumatra, isolated from *A. mangium*, 2005, M. Tarigan (PREM59884 — holotype, living culture-extype: CMW22563).

Colonies olive green (23 m) in color. Mycelium aerial. Optimal temperature for growth 25 °C, growth reduced at 15 °C, no growth at 35 °C, 10 °C and below. Hyphae smooth, not constricted at septa. Ascomatal bases dark brown to black, globose to sub globose, (105–) 131–175 (–206) μ m long, (107–) 125–167 (–188) μ m in width, ornamented with hyphae. Ascomatal necks

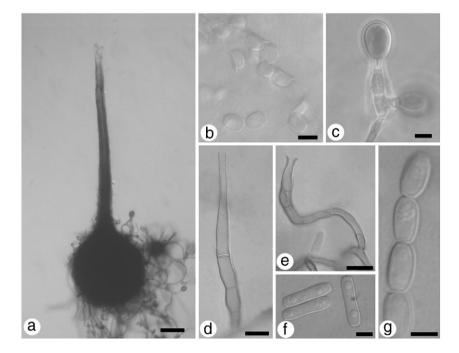


Fig. 5. Morphological characteristics of *Ceratocystis acaciivora sp.nov*. (CMW22563). (a) Globose ascomata with long neck; (b) hat-shaped ascospores in side view; (c) Chlamydospores; (d) primary phialides; (e) secondary phialides; (f) cylindrical conidia; (g) barrel-shaped conidia. Scale bars $a=50 \mu m$; $d-e=10 \mu m$; b, c, f, $g=5 \mu m$.

dark brown to black becoming lighter toward the apexes, (301-) 348–448 (-522) µm long, (25-) 33–45 (-53) µm wide at the base, (11-) 13–17 (-20) µm wide at the apex. Ostiolar hyphae divergent, hyaline, (30-) 35–49 (-60) µm long. Asci not observed. Ascospores accumulating in buff-yellow (19d) mucilaginous masses at the apices of ascomatal necks. Ascospores cucullate in side view, aseptate, hyaline, invested in sheath, 5–7×3–4 µm with sheath, 4–6×3–4 µm without sheath.

Thielaviopsis anamorph: primary conidiophores occurring singly on mycelium, hyaline, swollen at the bases, tapering toward the apexes, (53-) 61-95 (-127) µm long, 4-6 µm wide at the bases, (2-) 5-7 (-8) µm wide at the middle, 3-6 µm wide at the apices. Secondary conidiophores occurring singly on mycelium, hyaline (52-) 57-69 (-68) µm long, (3-) 2-4 (-5) µm wide at the bases, 4-6 µm wide at the apexes. Conidia of two types: primary conidia hyaline, aseptate, cylindrical (11-) 14-22 $(-29) \times 3-5$ µm, secondary conidia hyaline, aseptate, barrel-shaped (8-) 9-11 $(-13) \times 4-6$ µm. Chlamydospores oval, thick walled, smooth, argus brown (13 m), (10-) 12-14 $(-15) \times (7-)$ 8-12 (-14) µm, embedded in agar, formed singly or in chains, terminally.

Additional specimens examined: Indonesia: Sumatra, isolated from A. mangium, 2005, M. Tarigan (culture CMW22564, PREM59885; CMW22621, PREM59886).

5. Discussion

This study presents the first report of *Ceratocystis* spp. associated with a serious disease of young *A. mangium* trees, which develop after pruning of these trees in the Riau area, Sumatra. Two species were consistently associated with diseased trees of which one was described as *C. acaciivora sp. nov.*, and the other was indistinguishable from *C. manginecans.* Both these fungi were shown to be pathogenic on inoculated trees in greenhouse and field inoculations.

Based on DNA sequence comparisons and morphological differences, one group of the *Ceratocystis* isolates collected from dying *A. mangium* trees, as well as from artificially wounded *A. mangium*, was shown to represent a distinct and previously undescribed species. Its closest phylogenetic neighbour was shown to be *C. manginecans* based on ITS, BT and TEF sequence data. When compared with *C. manginecans*, *C. acaciivora* isolates differed in having smaller ascomata and shorter ascomatal necks. The primary and secondary conidiophores of *C. acaciivora* were also found to be shorter than those of *C. manginecans* and the secondary conidiophores of *C. manginecans* and the secondary conidiophores of *C. manginecans*.

One group of isolates (Group 2) from *A. mangium* and *A. crassicarpa* was indistinguishable from *C. manginecans*, a serious pathogen of mango trees in Oman and Pakistan (Van Wyk et al., 2007). There were no significant morphological differences between the *Acacia* isolates and *C. manginecans* and only minor sequence differences (3 bp different in ITS and 2 bp different in TEF) were found between them.

Stem wounds such as those associated with pruning appear to be an important component of the disease of *A. mangium* found in this study. Pruning of these trees during the first year of growth to reduce branching and improve stem straightness is a routine procedure (Beadle et al., 2007). These wounds are visited by insects such as nitidulid beetles that are known to carry *Ceratocystis* spp. (Appel et al., 1990; Hayslett et al., 2005; Heath et al., 2009) and it is probable that *C. manginecans* and *C. acaciivora* are carried to fresh wounds after pruning. *A. mangium* is known to be highly sensitive to wounding and infection by *C. manginecans* and *C. acaciivora* appear to lead to rapid tree death. The fact that a similar disease is not seen in *A. crassicarpa*, which based on inoculation studies are equally susceptible, might be explained by the fact that this tree has a greater capacity to sustain wounding than does *A. mangium*.

All dying trees from which *C. manginecans* and *C. acaciivora* were isolated were those of *A. mangium* and the disease was not seen on *A. crassicarpa*. Because both species are grown in plantations in close proximity, it was considered interesting to determine their relative susceptibility to infection by *C. manginecans* and *C. acaciivora* in artificial inoculations. These tests showed that both species are equally susceptible to infection. In a recent survey, *C. acaciivora* was found on dying *A. mangium* in the absence of pruning wounds, but where wood boring beetles had infested stems (Wingfield, unpublished). It is possible that these insects are more closely attracted to *A. mangium* than *A. crassicarpa* and that this difference could be an additional reason for the absence of disease on the former species.

The discovery of a fungus that has been identified as *C. manginecans* on *Acacia* trees in Sumatra is interesting. This fungus is known as a serious pathogen of mango in Oman and Pakistan (Van Wyk et al., 2007) and this is the first report of the fungus on a host other than mango. It remains possible that the fungus from *Acacia* represents a distinct, but closely related species to *C. manginecans*, although it is not currently possible to resolve this question. Further studies are needed to resolve the taxonomic placement of isolates from *A. mangium* in Indonesia and to determine the origin of both the *Ceratocystis* spp. found in this study.

The disease of *A. mangium* that gave rise to this study is serious and management options to reduce its incidence are required. Clearly, pruning wounds are an important factor in disease development and the negative impact of pruning will require careful consideration. The fact that *C. acaciivora* has also recently been found on dying trees that have not been pruned (Wingfield, unpublished) requires further investigation. Here, the role of wood boring insects as vectors of this pathogen will need to be understood. Yet *C. manginecans* and *C. acaciivora* are an aggressive pathogens and a deeper understanding of their role in tree death will be important in the future.

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