

DISEASE NOTE

**ALTERNARIA ALTERNATA CAUSING
LEAF SPOT ON CERCIS SILIQUASTRUM
IN GREECE**

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Small, circular, necrotic spots with yellow border, present on *ca.* 50% of the leaves were observed in 2012 on Judas trees (*Cercis siliquastrum* L.) in the urban area of Thessaloniki (Greece). Tissue fragments excised from the margin of the lesions were surface-disinfected for 1 min in 1% sodium hypochlorite and plated on potato dextrose agar (PDA). Two single-spore cultures grown on potato carrot agar (PCA) and incubated at 24°C with a 12 h photoperiod, gave rise to initially white colonies which turned grayish-black due to abundant sporulation. Conidiophores were short, septate, branched or unbranched, green to brown. Mature conidia, produced in long, single or more often branched chains, were obpyriform, with a conical or cylindrical beak, ovoid or ellipsoidal, had 1 to 5 transverse and 0 to 3 longitudinal septa and measured 9.4-30.8 × 5.6-15.4 µm (average 20.1 × 10.7 µm). These morphological traits tally with those of *Alternaria alternata* (Fr.) Keissl. (Simmons, 2007). The ITS1-5.8S-ITS2 region of the two PCA isolates was amplified with primers ITS1 and ITS4 and sequenced (GenBank accession Nos. KP780092, KP780093). A BLAST search revealed 100% homology with the sequences of various *A. alternata* isolates (e.g. KM233278). Spraying leaves of 10 healthy 2-year-old greenhouse-grown *C. siliquastrum* plants with a 10⁶ conidia/ml spore suspension resulted in the production, 20 days post inoculation, of leaf spots similar to those observed in the field. Controls plants sprayed with sterile distilled water remained healthy. *A. alternata* was re-isolated from artificially inoculated leaves fulfilling Koch's postulates. This is the first report of *A. alternata* as the cause of a leaf spot disease on *C. siliquastrum* in Greece and elsewhere in the world.

Simmons E.G., 2007. *Alternaria*. An Identification Manual. 1st Ed. CBS Biodiversity Series, Utrecht, The Netherlands.

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DISEASE NOTE

**NEW HOST OF PUCCINIA CORONATA
var. CORONATA FROM PAKISTAN**A. Ishaq¹, N.S. Afshan² and A.N. Khalid¹

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During an uredinological survey carried out in August 2009 in Sharan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan), leaves of *Stipa sibirica* infected with a rust fungus were found. Uredinia were abaxial, brown, 0.2 to 0.25 mm wide and 0.08 to 0.12 mm long. Urediniospores were globose to subglobose, hyaline, 18-24 × 21-28 µm in size, with 1.5-2.5 µm thick echinulated wall, and up to 5 scattered germ pores. Telia were abaxial and measured 0.1-0.2 × 0.07-0.09 mm. Teliospores were 1-2 celled with a prevalence of the 2-celled ones. They were oblong to clavate, hyaline to light brown, had 2-5 digitations, were 14-19 × 38-57 µm long excluding digitations, and 36-68 µm long including digitations, 3-6 µm thick apically excluding the crown (7-20 µm thick including the crown). Spore walls were 2-3 µm thick. Based on these morphological traits and spore dimensions, the rust was identified as *Puccinia coronata* var. *coronata*, a sample of which was deposited in LAH Herbarium (LAH Herbarium No. AM1175) of the University of the Punjab, Lahore. *P. coronata* var. *coronata* has previously been recorded in Pakistan on *Agrostis gigantea*, *Festuca* sp., *Lolium persicum* and *Themeda anathera* (Ahmad *et al.*, 1997; Afshan *et al.*, 2011) but, to the best of our knowledge, this its first report on *S. sibirica* in this country.

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Afshan N.S., Khalid A.N., Niazi A.R., Iqbal S.H., 2011. New records of Uredinales from Fairy Meadows, Pakistan. *Mycotaxon* 115: 203-213.

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