

Outlineoffungi.org - Note 890 *Leptosphaeria*

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Leptosphaeria Ces. & De Not.

The genus *Leptosphaeria* Ces. & De Not. (1863), a sexually typified genus, was introduced by Cesati & De Notaris (1863) with *Leptosphaeria doliolum* (Pers.) Ces. & De Not. (Basionym: *Sphaeria doliolum* Pers. 1800) as the type species. In morphology-based traditional taxonomy, species of *Phoma* have been regarded as the asexual morph of several sexually typified genera, including *Leptosphaeria* (van der Aa et al. 1990; Boerema 1997). De Gruyter et al. (2013), however, restricted the genus *Phoma* s. str. to [Didymellaceae](#) and resurrected the genus [Plenodomus](#) Preuss (type: *Plenodomus rabenhorstii* Preuss 1851) to accommodate the phoma-like taxa classified in [Leptosphaeriaceae](#). In the same publication several names in *Leptosphaeria* and *Phoma* were transferred to *Plenodomus* that were not congeneric with their type species, i.e. *L. doliolum* and *Phoma herbarum*, respectively.

Leptosphaeria maculans Ces. & De Not. is an important pathogen of a wide range of hosts ([Schäfer & Wöstemeyer 1992](#), [Reddy et al. 1998](#), [Williams & Fitt 1999](#)) and was introduced by Cesati & De Notaris concurrent with the generic name. *Phoma lingam* (Tode) Desm. (1849) was referred to as the asexual morph of *Leptosphaeria maculans* (Sutton 1980, [Schäfer & Wöstemeyer 1992](#), [de Gruyter et al. 2009](#), [Aveskamp et al. 2010](#)). Reddy et al. (1998) showed that *Phoma lingam* and *P. wasabiae* are phylogenetically distinct from *Phoma* s. str. but related to *Plenodomus*. De Gruyter et al. (2009) also emphasized the species of *Phoma* in *Phoma* sect. *Plenodomus* need further revision. A subsequent study by de Gruyter et al. (2013) confirmed the findings of Reddy et al. (1998) and transferred *Leptosphaeria maculans* (= *Phoma lingam*) to *Plenodomus* s. str. based on DNA sequence analyses as a synonym of *Plenodomus lingam* (Tode) Höhn. (Höhn 1911), thus, the correct name should be *Plenodomus lingam*. In Google Scholar, *Leptosphaeria maculans* has 16,400 hits while *Plenodomus lingam* has only 294 hits. Hence, it is essential to adopt the widely used name *Leptosphaeria maculans*, over *Plenodomus lingam*, for the stability of nomenclature and the name in use in plant pathology. The taxonomic placement of *Leptosphaeria* is in [Leptosphaeriaceae](#), [Pleosporales](#), [Pleosporomycetidae](#), [Dothideomycetes](#), [Pezizomycotina](#), and [Ascomycota](#).

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