

Outlineoffungi.org - Note 1233 *Agroathelia*

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Agroathelia Redhead & Mullineux

Redhead & Mullineux (2023) introduced *Agroathelia* following the study conducted by Song et al. (2016). *Agroathelia* was established to accommodate *A. rolfsii*, *A. delphinii*, and *A. coffeicola* as comb. nov, previously classified in the *Athelia* within *Atheliales*. According to phylogenetic analysis with ITS and LSU sequence data, *Agroathelia* is placed within *Amylocorticiaceae*, *Amylocorticiales* (*Basidiomycota*), and is typified by *Agroathelia rolfsii* (Sacc.) Redhead & Mullineux 2023. Tu & Kimbrough (2016) described the sclerotia as varying in size, brownish with a “hyphal strand type ontogeny”. According to Redhead & Mullineux (2023), they consist of 4 zones, occasionally slightly stalked while vegetating. On surface view, the outer cortical cells of the sclerotia appear polyhedron-like. The hymenium is rarely observed in nature, and when present is whitish, resupinate, discontinuous later becoming smooth and pellicular. Basidia are clavate to subcylindrical, with or lacking clamp connections. Basidiospores are ovoid to broadly elliptical in shape, thin-walled, hyaline, smooth, and nonamyloid. Hyphae are compact and floccose, clamped, hyaline, and branching at septa. Species of *Agroathelia* are facultative parasites causing wilt or blight on many angiosperm species in regions with warm climates. The type species, *Agroathelia rolfsii*, has a cosmopolitan distribution and causes souther-blight disease in an extensive host range of plants (Punja 1985). *Agroathelia coffeicola* causes target-spot disease of coffee and other tropical plants (Kirschner et al. 2018), while *A. delphinii* also causes souther-blight and its distribution is limited to regions of temperate climate, such as parts of China and in the Northern and Midwestern region of the United States (Xu et al. 2010). Symptoms include the production of abundant sclerotia, a mycelium enveloping the base of the plant stem, or infecting fallen seeds and fruits and living leaves in some hosts; In one species needle-like propagules are produced on leaves in addition to sclerotia (Redhead & Mullineux 2023).

References

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