

Outlineoffungi.org - Note 1311 *Cnidariophoma*

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Cnidariophoma Crous & Yarden

Crous et al. (2023) introduced *Cnidariophoma* under *Pleosporaceae* (*Pleosporales*, *Dothideomycetes*, *Ascomycota*) as a monotypic genus to accommodate a phoma-like species based on morphology and phylogenetic analyses. This genus was typified by *Cnidariophoma eilatica* Crous & Yarden (ex-type, CBS 149672). This species was isolated from *Stylophora pistillata*, a coral in the Red Sea, in Israel. Based on the phylogenetic analysis of LSU sequence data *Cnidariophoma eilatica* is placed in a clade close to *Decorospora gaudefroyi* (Crous et al. 2023). *Cnidariophoma eilatica* is a phoma-like species with a pycnidial asexual morph, while the asexual morph in *Decorospora gaudefroyi* has not determined and it is was described based on the sexual morph. According to the blast search results provided by Crous et al. (2023), based on the different DNA loci (LSU = OQ629062, ITS = OQ628480, *actA* = OQ627931, *rpb2* = OQ627943, *tub2* = OQ627964) *C. eilatica* had shown the highest similarity with various genera including *Tamaricicola* and *Comoclathris*. Preliminary phylogenetic analyses of ITS and *rpb2* sequences data using Maximum Likelihood (ML) and Maximum Parsimony (MP) revealed that *C. eilatica* is closer to *Tamaricicola* in a single clade. *Cnidariophoma* is distinguished from *Pleospora*, the type genus of *Pleosporaceae* by having phoma-like asexual morph. Moreover, *Tamaricicola* differs from *Pleospora* in both sexual and asexual morph as mentioned by Thambugala et al. (2017). Thus, it is recommended to examine the position of both phoma-like genera *Cnidariophoma* and *Tamaricicola* at the family level in phylogenetic studies on *Dothideomycetes*.

References

- Crous PW, Osieck ER, Shivas RG, Tan YP et al. 2023 – Fungal Planet description sheets: 1478–1549. *Persoonia* 50, 158–310.
- Thambugala KM, Daranagama DA, Phillips AJ, Bulgakov TS et al. 2017 – Microfungi on *Tamarix*. *Fungal Diversity* 82, 239–306.

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