

(1732) Proposal to conserve the name *Pseudocercospora* against *Stigmina* and *Phaeoisariopsis* (Hyphomycetes)

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- (1732) *Pseudocercospora* Speg., Anales Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat. Buenos Aires 20: 438. 1910 [Fungi], *nom. cons. prop.*
 Typus: *P. vitis* (Lév.) Speg.
- (=) *Stigmina* Sacc., *Michelia* 2: 22. 1880 [Fungi], *nom. rej. prop.*
 Typus: *S. platani* (Fuckel) Sacc.
- (=) *Phaeoisariopsis* Ferraris, *Ann. Mycol.* 7: 280. 1909 [Fungi], *nom. rej. prop.*
 Typus: *P. griseola* (Sacc.) Ferraris.

Mycosphaerella Johanson (*Mycosphaerellaceae* Lindau), which is one of the largest genera of ascomycetes, produces a wide range of coelomycetous and hyphomycetous anamorphs (Crous & al. in *Stud. Mycol.* 45: 107–121. 2000; Verkley & Priest in *Stud. Mycol.* 45: 123–128. 2000; Crous & al. in *Stud. Mycol.* 50: 195–214), including cercosporoid hyphomycetes as largest group. A recently issued check-list of names published in *Cercospora* Fresen. and *Passalora* Fr. comprises in total 5720 names (Crous & Braun in *CBS Biodiversity Series* 1: 1–571. 2003). During the course of recently carried out monographic studies of cercosporoid *Mycosphaerella* anamorphs, based on molecular (PCR) examinations as well as reassessments of morphological characters and differences in the conidiogenesis, it was realized that the number of hyphomycetous anamorph genera in this complex could be reduced drastically (Crous & al. in *Mycologia* 93: 1081–1101. 2001). The traditional separation of the genera concerned turned out to be arguably untenable since conidiogenesis and structure of the conidiogenous loci and conidial hila are barely distinct. Recently accomplished detailed examinations focusing on *Phaeoisariopsis griseola*, the type of *Phaeoisariopsis*, and *Stigmina platani* (Crous & al. in *Stud. Mycol.* 55: 163–173. 2006), the type of *Stigmina*, revealed that the species concerned clustered together with *Mycosphaerella* taxa having *Pseudocercospora* anamorphs, and specifically with *P. vitis*, the type of *Pseudocercospora*. Re-examinations of numerous collections, including type material, led to a reassessment of the morphology, conidiogenesis and structure of the conidiogenous loci, showing that the taxa concerned are congeneric with *Pseudocercospora* (Crous & al. in *Stud. Mycol.* 55: 163–173. 2006). Deighton (in *Mycol. Res.* 94: 1096–1102. 1990) confined *Phaeoisariopsis* to a few taxa around the type, *P. griseola*, reallocated most other species to *Passalora* and *Pseudocercospora*, and questioned the

taxonomic value of synnematos conidiomata at the generic level, which was subsequently shown to be unreliable as a generic feature in the *Mycosphaerellaceae* based on molecular data. Sutton & Pascoe (in *Mycol. Res.* 92: 210–222. 1989) restricted *Stigmina* to a few foliicolous taxa close to the type, *S. platani*, characterized by having sporodochial conidiomata, percurrently proliferating conidiogenous cells and distoseptate conidia. Percurrent conidiogenous cells and the structure of the conidiogenous loci are in agreement with the current concept of *Pseudocercospora*, and the formation of distosepta proved to be of no use in *Mycosphaerella* anamorphs for the discrimination of genera (Crous & al. in *Mycologia* 93: 1081–1101. 2001; Crous & al. in *Stud. Mycol.* 50: 195–214).

Thus, it is inevitable that *Stigmina*, *Phaeoisariopsis* and *Pseudocercospora* be merged. *Stigmina* is the earliest legitimate name for the large genus in its new circumscription (Crous & al. in *Stud. Mycol.* 55: 163–173. 2006). However, as discussed above, *Stigmina* as well as *Phaeoisariopsis* comprise in the present circumscription only a few taxa around the respective types of these generic names, whereas the generally recognised genus *Pseudocercospora* embraces 1171 taxa (Deighton in *Mycol. Pap.* 140: 1–168. 1976; Yen & Lim in *Gard. Bull., Singapore*, 33: 151–263. 1980; Hsieh & Goh, *Cercospora* and similar fungi from Taiwan: 1–376. 1990; Guo & Hsieh, The genus *Pseudocercospora* in China. *Mycosystema Monographicum Series* 2: 1–388. 1995; Shin & Kim, *Cercospora* and allied genera from Korea. *Plant Pathogens of Korea* 7: 1–301. 2001; Crous & Braun in *CBS Biodiversity Series* 1: 1–571. 2003). Therefore, to avoid the introduction of more than 1000 new combinations and to maintain the well-known name *Pseudocercospora*, which contains a very large number of important plant pathogens that are widely distributed, we propose conservation of the latter name against the names of the smaller genera *Stigmina* and *Phaeoisariopsis*. The proposed rejection of this last name will cause the loss of the name *Phaeoisariopsis griseola*, referring to an important plant disease of bean, well-known and widespread in the phytopathological literature. However, the strong advantages of rejecting *Phaeoisariopsis* in favour of *Pseudocercospora* are obvious.