

## *Corynespora palmicola* revisited

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**Abstract:** Braun, U. 2015: *Corynespora palmicola* revisited. *Schlechtendalia* **28**: 49–51.

The generic affinity and taxonomy of *Cercospora palmicola*, described on *Syagrum romanzoffianum* [*Cocos australis*] from Paraguay, is critically discussed. This species, recently tentatively assigned to *Corynespora*, is described and for the first time illustrated, based on re-examination of several type collections.

**Zusammenfassung:** Braun, U. 2015: *Corynespora palmicola* neu aufgegriffen. *Schlechtendalia* **28**: 49–51.

Die Gattungsverwandtschaft und Taxonomie von *Cercospora palmicola*, beschrieben von *Syagrum romanzoffianum* [*Cocos australis*] aus Paraguay, wird kritisch diskutiert. Diese unlängst vorläufig zu *Corynespora* gestellte Art wird auf Grundlage der Untersuchung verschiedener Typuskollektionen beschrieben und erstmals abgebildet.

**Key words:** *Cercospora palmicola*, taxonomy, generic affinity, illustration.

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*Cercospora palmicola* was described by Spegazzini (1888) from Paraguay on leaves of Cocos Palm. In his monograph of *Cercospora*, Chupp (1954) excluded this species and considered it as *Helminthosporium* Link, but he failed to introduce a corresponding valid combination. Based on the re-examination of type material of *C. palmicola*, deposited at LPS, the new combination *Drechslera palmicola* was introduced by Anderson, Bianchinotti and Braun (in Braun 2000). Later, additional syn- and topotype collections, deposited at B, were examined. The re-examination of these specimens, which are richer and in better condition as the LPS material, led to a reassessment of *C. palmicola* and a reallocation of this species to *Corynespora* Güssow (Braun et al. 2014). The allocation of this species to *Drechslera* S. Ito was regarded to be inappropriate since this genus is characterised by having polytretic, sympodially proliferating conidiogenous cells. Due to monotretic conidiogenous cells and pluridistoseptate conidia with pigmented hila, *C. palmicola* is rather akin to *Corynespora*, but owing to an unusual combination of characters the assignment of this species to the latter genus is only tentative. Aseptate, non-proliferating conidiophores and less conspicuous pores without pigmented halo are unusual for *Corynespora* species which are mostly characterised by having percurrently proliferating conidiogenous cells and pores surrounded by a distinctly pigmented halo. However, some species with at least rather inconspicuous pores and not percurrently proliferating conidiophores are known in *Corynespora*, e.g. *C. cubensis* Hol.-Jech. and *C. pseudolmediae* (R.F. Castañeda) Hol.-Jech. (Mercado Sierra et al. 1997). The structure of the conidiogenous loci is reminiscent of pores in species of *Helminthosporium* and segregated genera which are however readily distinguishable by having terminal and intercalary, polytretic conidiogenous cells (Ellis 1971, Seifert et al. 2011). The taxonomic relevance of these differing characters remains unclear. It cannot be excluded that *C. palmicola* requires a genus of its own, but descriptions of new hyphomycete genera in morphologically complex assemblages of genera just based on morphology are not justified and should be avoided. New collections, cultures and results of phylogenetic analyses are necessary to ascertain the true generic affinity of this species. For the interim, the placement of *C. palmicola* in *Corynespora* seems to be the best solution.

Records of this species from Europe (Germany, Botanical Garden in Berlin; Russia, Volgograd Oblast) on *Phoenix canariensis* (Lindau 1910: 88, Vassiljevsky & Karakulin 1937: 317, Braun & Mel'nik 1997) are unproven. Material was not available.

The following description is based on the examination of lecto- and isoelectotypes. Fig. 1 represents the first illustration of this species.

***Corynespora palmicola*** (Speg.) U. Braun, in Braun et al., *IMA Fungus* **5**: 245 (2014)      Fig. 1

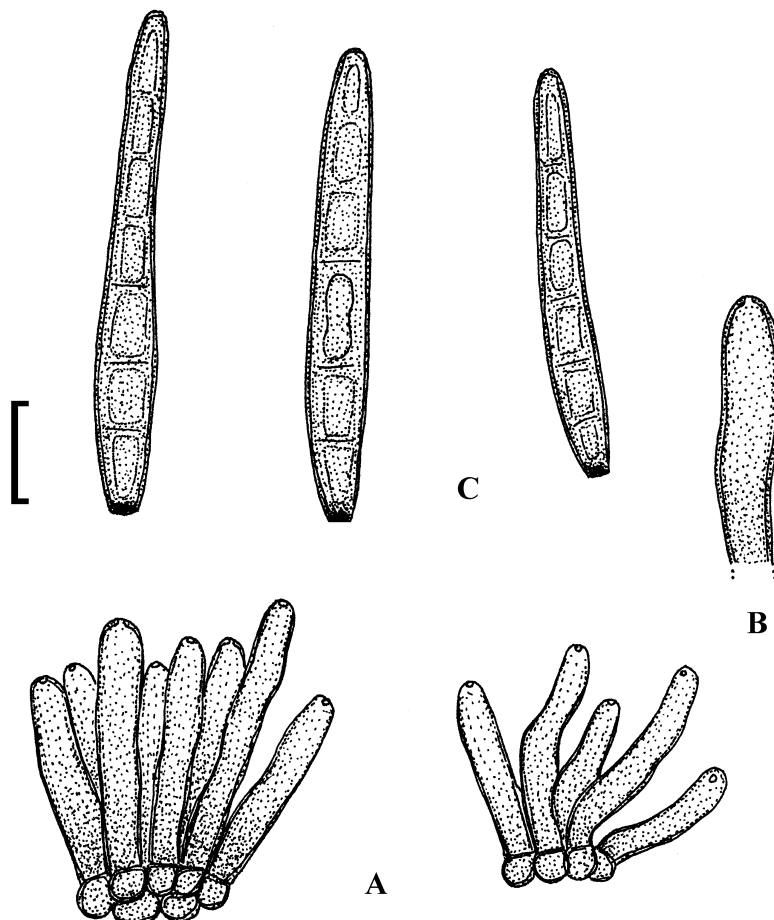
Basionym: *Cercospora palmicola* Speg., *Anales Soc. Ci. Argent.* **26**: 72 (1888).

Synonym: *Drechslera palmicola* (Speg.) F. Anderson, M.V. Bianchinotti & U. Braun, *Schlechtendalia* **5**: 67 (2000).

Literature: Lindau (1910: 88); Vassiljevsky & Karakulin (1937: 317), Chupp (1954: 429), Braun & Mel'nik (1997: 77–78), Crous & Braun (2003: 303).  
 Exsiccatae: Roum., Fungi Sel. Exs. 5188 (topotypes).

Leaf spots amphigenous, elliptical to somewhat irregular, 10–20 mm long and 3–8 mm wide, brownish, confluent. Caespituli punctiform, scattered, dark. Mycelium internal. Stromata developed, composed of swollen hyphal cells, circular in outline, brown. Conidiophores in small to moderately large, loose to dense fascicles, arising from stromata, erect, straight to curved, subcylindrical to clavate, unbranched, 15–50 × 3–6 μm, aseptate, wall thin to somewhat thickened, brown or olivaceous-brown, smooth; conidiophores reduced to conidiogenous cells, monotretic, with a single terminal minute pore, not darkened or only slightly so around the pore, not proliferating. Conidia solitary, obclavate-subcylindrical, 40–70 × 6–9 μm, 5–7-distoseptate, pale greenish to yellowish olivaceous, appearing thick-walled by distoseptation and reduced lumina, smooth, apex obtuse, broadly rounded, base short obconically truncate, distinctly darkened.

Material examined: Paraguay, Guarapí, on *Syagrum romanzoffianum* [*Cocos australis*], 19 Oct. 1883, B. Balansa 4070 (LPS 925, lectotype; B 700016013, isolectotype; Roum., Fungi Sel. Exs. 5188 (B, topotype collected in 1886).



**Fig. 1:** *Corynespora palmicola* (based on type material), A – Conidiophore fascicles, B – Conidiophore, C – Conidia. Bar – 10 μm. U. Braun del.

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