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*Relationships among the species of Mycosphaerella from foliage of species of eucalypts.*

Almost 30 species of *Mycosphaerella* (Dothideales: Mycosphaerellaceae) have been described from eucalypt leaves. Many of these species were first described from countries to which eucalypts (species of *Angophora*, *Corymbia* and *Eucalyptus*) had been introduced for forestry plantations or amenity plantings. Careful collecting has shown that almost all these apparently exotic species also occur on eucalypts in Australia. There is little evidence species of *Mycosphaerella* from Myrtaceae other than members of the *Eucalyptus* alliance (*sensu* Briggs & Johnson) infect eucalypts. The characters used to distinguish species (*e.g.* ascospore size and shape, ascospore germination patterns, anamorphs) are reviewed, and possible relationships between the described species are discussed.

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*Ammonia fungi in the jarrah forest of Western Australia and parallelism with other geographic regions of the world.*

Ammonia fungi are a chemoecological group of fungi with greatly enhanced mycelial and fruiting activity in the presence of ammonium nitrogen compounds. Under natural conditions ammonia fungi occur in specialised ecological circumstances such as near animal corpses or other NH<sub>4</sub> nitrogen depositions. A succession of various ammonia fungi may also be induced by artificial application of ammonium nitrogen such as in the form of urea. The fungal succession relates to specific changes in soil factors such as pH, moisture and levels of ammonium ions. Certain species of Deuteromycetes (*e.g.* *Amblyosporium botrytis*) are stimulated shortly after application of ammonium and they are usually followed in turn by various Ascomycetes (*e.g.* *Ascobolus denudatus*) and Basidiomycetes (*e.g.* *Lyophyllum tylicolor*). Ammonia fungi include decomposer and mycorrhizal species and are therefore an important components of microbial nutrient cycling in forest ecosystems. They have been recognised in many parts of the world such as Japan, Europe and New Zealand. In Australia, the presence of ammonia fungi has been speculated due to the occurrence of the 'ghoul fungus'—*Hebeloma aminophilum* which is always found close to carcasses of kangaroos, snakes and other sizeable animals. To determine whether a successional range of ammonia fungi occurs in Australia, experimental applications of urea and subsequent monitoring of fungal activity and soil conditions were recently undertaken in the Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) forest of Western Australia. The applications induced successions of ammonia fungi related to specific changes in soil conditions which parallel observations recorded in other parts of the world.

#### RETIREMENT OF PROFESSOR DAVID HAWKSWORTH

Professor David Hawksworth has taken early retirement from the International Mycological Institute with effect from 1 January. He will act as a Special Adviser in Mycology to CABI Bioscience, and will also be able both to complete existing responsibilities and to pursue his research interests in ascomycete (including lichens) systematics, bioindication, bio-nomenclature and nature conservation.

#### THE ORIGIN OF THE TERM 'BIODIVERSITY'

I have long had the impression that biodiversity was a word invented at a political rather than biological level. Recently I encountered the origin of the term, described in E.O. Wilson's foreword to Biodiversity published on the proceedings of the national Forum on BioDiversity, Washington, D.C., 21–24 September 1986, published 1988.

He notes that the 'National Forum on BioDiversity and thence this volume were made possible by the cooperative efforts of many people. The forum was conceived by Walter G. Rosen, Senior Program Officer in the Board on basic Biology—a unit of the Commission on Life Sciences, National Research Council/National

Academy of Sciences (NRC/NAS)...Furthermore he introduced the term biodiversity, which aptly represents, as well as any term can, the vast array of topics and perspectives covered during the Washington forum'.

**AUSTRALASIAN MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**Evening meeting for Victorian members (Wednesday 6 May 1998)**

To provide an opportunity for AMS members in Victoria to catch up, an evening meeting has been organised in May 1998, jointly with one of the monthly meetings of the Melbourne chapter of the Australian Systematic Botany Society.

**Speaker:** Dr Tom May (National Herbarium of Victoria), 'FUNGIMAP—expanding the frontiers of fungal distribution'

**Venue:** Mueller Hall, National Herbarium of Victoria, South Yarra. The entrance to the Herbarium is on Birdwood Ave, between Dallas Brookes Drive and F Gate of the Royal Botanic Gardens.

5 pm: drinks and nibbles. 5.30 pm: speaker. Dinner after at Swan Palace, Vietnamese restaurant on Swan St, just near Richmond Station. Contact: Tom May (tmay@rbgmelb.org.au, 03 9252 2319).

The Australian Systematic Botany Society has regular meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at the National Herbarium of Victoria, members and visitors welcome. For program details contact Marco Duretto (duretto@rbgmelb.org.au, 03 9252 2371).

**POSTPONEMENT OF ABRS CALL FOR 1999 RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS**

As you may be aware, every year the ABRS calls for applications for the Participatory Program Research Grants Scheme in February, with the deadline for applications normally being 10 April.

Future funding of the ABRS Program is currently under consideration by the Federal Government, and new funding is being considered in the 1998/99 Budget context. Given the uncertainty of the funding situation at the present time, I have proposed that the calling for applications be delayed for a short time as the outcome of the bid for additional funds should be known in the next couple of months.

The schedule of calling for ABRS research grant applications will be revised as follows:

Action	Date	Comments
Call for Applications	4 April 1998 <i>Weekend Australian</i>	Advertisement in the newspaper
Availability of forms and guidelines	early April 1998	Application forms and <i>Guidelines for Applicants</i> will be distributed to all organisations just before the advertisement. Forms will be available in hardcopy or electronically via the ABRS Web Site. More information on the availability of forms will be distributed at a later date.
<i>Biologue</i>	3 April 1998	Special issue of newsletter will be distributed to Participatory Program Registrants calling for applications.
Deadline for Grant Applications	10 June 1998	

While I regret the disruption to the normal procedures relating to the Research Grants Program for this year, it would appear sensible in the current circumstances.

If you have any queries relating to the above postponement of the Grants for 1999, please contact Liz Visher, Manager, Participatory Program on phone (02) 62509 554, fax (02) 62509 555 or email liz.visher@ea.gov.au.

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