ON THE IDENTITY OF CURVULARIA SUBULATA

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Occasionally fungal strains have been received by the 'Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures' under the name *Curvularia subulata* (Nees) Boedijn. This name also turns up in the literature (Corbetta, 1965; Jalal & al., 1984). A culture, carrying this name and deposited recently at the CBS, was indistinguishable from *Curvularia lunata*. Since the epithet 'subulata' is older than 'lunata', a study was made to establish the identity of *Curvularia subulata*

The binomial *Curvularia subulata* was mentioned by Gilman (1945), with the cited author's names '(Nees) Boedijn' and making reference to Boedijn's (1983) paper on *Curvularia*. However, neither in this article, nor in any other article Boedijn's personal notes, maintained at the Rijksherbarium at Leiden, no reference to *Curvularia subulata*, nor its basionym, *Helminthosporium subulatum* Nees, could be found. The name was also not included in most of the recent treatments of *Curvularia* (see for example Ellis, 1966); neither was *Helminthosporium subulatum* mentioned in Hughes' (1985) list of excluded *Helminthosporium* species. We consequently assume that Gilman (1945) first made the combination *Curvularia subulata*. The same conclusion was drawn in the 'Index of Fungi' (1950: 278). Gilman's material had originally been isolated by Takahashi (1919) from soil and is now probably lost.

Nees & Nees (1818) described *Helminthosporium subulatum* Nees & T. Nees as having straight, mostly unbranched conidiophores bearing oblong-clavate conidia with rounded apices. On their accompanying tab. V, fig. 13 the conidia were depicted as being 3—4-septate. This concept of *H. subulatum* was adopted by Fries (1832), Saccardo (1886), and Lindau (1910). The last mentioned author gave the conidial measurements as 22—26 × 9—11 µm. His description was copied by Gilman (1945). Apparently Lindau's (1910) and Gilman's (1945) descriptions do not refer to the type specimen, as in a collection preserved at the Brussels herbarium (No. 17749, without data; scr. Nees ?), which is probably authentic for *H. subulatum*, and a collection preserved at the Leningrad herbarium (no. 72, ex 'Sredinsky Crypt. Mosquensis'), the conidia are found to be obclavate, measuring 53—76 × 12—18 µm. Both specimens are indistinguishable from *Helminthosporium velutinum* Link: Fr. A similarity of *H. subulatum* to *H. velutinum* was already suggested by Ellis (1961) when he reidentified a secondary specimen of *H. subulatum* at the Kew herbarium.

Judging from Nees & Nees' (1818) description and illustration, they and many later authors interpreted the conidial attachment incorrectly, and depicted the conidia upside-down. This explains its erroneous interpretation by later authors as a possible *Curvularia* species.

Consequently *Helminthosporium subulatum* Nees & T. Nees: Fr. should be regarded as a synonym of *H. velutinum*, and the combination *Curvularia subulata* does not jeo-
pardize Curvularia lunata. Strains that are maintained (CBS 231.39) in, or received by the CBS collection as C. subulata, have all been reidentified as C. lunata (Wakker) Boedijn.

REFERENCES


