

propagator at the C.M.I., using 6-month-old *P. oocarpa* seedlings, gave negative results over an 18-month observation period. This does not entirely exclude the possibility of a direct pathogenic involvement although similar galls have since been collected from a *P. 'pseudostrobis'* (= *P. maximinoi*) provenance trial, and from other high altitude pine species, in Honduras, on which rust aecia assignable to the *Cronartium quercuum* (Berk.) Miyabe & Shirai complex (Burdall & Snow, 1977) were present. Circumstantial evidence indicates, therefore, that *P. maximinoi* galls are of rust origin and that *C. carneum* is functioning as a parasite of galled tissues rather than as a pathogen *per se*. Clearly, however, the question of pathogenicity has not been resolved and it may be that there are distinct gall

types on *P. maximinoi* associated with different causal agents.

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**VOLUTELLARIA LAURINA TASSI, AN EARLIER NAME FOR
WIESNERIOMYCES JAVANICUS KOORDERS**

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Volutellaria laurina is shown to be an earlier binomial for the ubiquitous species *Wiesneriomyces javanicus*.

A study of the microfungi colonizing leaf litter of *Laurus nobilis* L., the sweet bay, in the British Isles (Kirk, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984) has revealed *Wiesneriomyces javanicus* Koorders (1907) to be one of the most ubiquitous species recorded on this substratum.

Oudemans (1921) listed 51 species occurring on the leaves of *L. nobilis*, with a further 74 on twigs, wood and bark. Considering these figures, it is apparent that Saccardo and his contemporaries paid particular attention to this substratum during their collecting activities. It was likely, therefore, that they collected *W. javanicus* and although this name dates from 1907 and was included by Saccardo (1913), the probability that it had been described earlier under a different name is high. A review of the 51 species listed by Oudemans has shown this to be the case.

An examination of the holotype of *Volutellaria laurina* Tassi (1897) has revealed that this provides an earlier name for the taxon presently referred to *Wiesneriomyces javanicus* (Koorders, 1907). The following new combination and synonymy is, therefore, proposed.

***Wiesneriomyces laurinus* (Tassi) P. M. Kirk**
comb. nov.

Volutellaria laurina Tassi, *Atti R. Accad. Fisiocr.*
Siena, ser. 4, 8: 551 (1897).

Chaetopeltis laurina (Tassi) Sacc. in Tassi, *Boll. R. Orto bot. Siena* 1: 14, 1897 (1898).

Tassia laurina (Tassi) H. & P. Sydow, *Ann. mycol.* 17: 44 (1919).

W. javanicus Koorders, *Verh. K. ned. Akad. Wet.* 246 (1907).

Tassi (1897) introduced *Volutellaria laurina* for a tuberculariaceous fungus he encountered on *Laurus nobilis* leaf litter collected in the botanical gardens, Siena. Saccardo (in Tassi, 1898) introduced the genus *Chaetopeltis* Sacc. for *V. laurina* because he considered it belonged in the Leptostromataceae, close to *Leptothyrium* but with the conidiomata bearing setae and producing scoleospores. Unfortunately, *Chaetopeltis* Sacc., 1898, is a homonym of *Chaetopeltis* Berth., 1878, a genus of Algae, and *Tassia* H. & P. Sydow (1919) was, therefore, introduced to replace it. Sutton (1977) included *Tassia* in his compilation of generic names proposed for Coelomycetes but made no comment on its taxonomic status.

The affinities of the type species of *Volutellaria*, *V. acaroides* (Sacc.) Sacc., are not clear. The species was not illustrated by Saccardo and it has not been possible to locate the holotype. From the description, however, it is clear that it differs from *W. laurinus*, especially in conidium morphology.

The author is indebted to the Director, herb. PAD for loan of the holotype of *Volutellaria laurina*.

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LABELLING OF STOCK CULTURES USING A MICROCOMPUTER

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A new computer-based labelling system, which is simple and reliable and greatly reduces the time taken to renew cultures, is described.

A collection of ca 200 isolates of fungi pathogenic to *Rubus* spp. is maintained for a group of research projects at S.C.R.I. For each isolate there are three or six replicates growing on 6 ml of culture medium sloped in 15 mm rimless glass culture tubes closed with non-absorbent cotton wool. Isolates are sub-cultured annually, or when the second of three or the fourth of six cultures is removed for use.

The following details of each isolate are entered in a record book: an accession number, genus, species, sub-specific designation (if relevant), the Commonwealth Mycological Institute (IMI) reference number where applicable, whether an isolate has been imported under a license issued by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland (DAFS), the source of the isolate, and dates subcultured. The same information, except for the source and earlier sub-culture dates, is recorded on each culture tube.

Of several labelling techniques in common use, waterproof pen and wax pencil markings are not permanent, yet are time-consuming to remove. Self-adhesive labels are convenient, but those tested could not easily be removed from culture tubes either before or after autoclaving. Gummed paper address labels, cut into strips 57 mm by

20 mm, remained in place and came off cleanly and easily when the tubes were recycled in trials. A roll of perforated gummed address labels (Butterfly, Wiggins Teape (Stationery) Ltd, 89 by 38 mm) suitable for continuous printing was tried and proved satisfactory.

A microcomputer, used to store information and print labels, reduces both the risk of copying errors and the time taken to produce labels. A programme in BASIC was written for the Tektronix 4051 micro-computer and a label was designed to hold up to six lines of text each of up to 14 characters per line, printing three copies side by side (Fig. 1) using a Diablo 1650 daisywheel printer. The first two lines are used for the genus and species and a third for either a sub-specific designation, an IMI reference number or isolate source. 'Date:' is printed next to record the sub-culture date, followed by the accession number, and the culture medium denoted by standard abbreviations. This suffices to identify each isolate, is easy to read, and is permanent for at least 12 months at 4 °C.

The programme enables the user to select from a list of five options displayed as a 'menu'. The first option allows input of labelling information and its storage in a 'new' tape file or, as the second option,