

Book Review

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Indian *Erysiphaceae*

Scientific Publishers, Jodhpur, India (www.scientificpub.com), 2006, 134 p., 11 plates containing 53 colour microphotographs, 22 figures containing 84 line drawings. Hardcover. – ISBN 81-7233-417-6. Price 44 US\$.

Monographs and checklists of powdery mildews are valuable sources of data on their hosts and geographic ranges. For a few Asian countries, several monographic and taxonomic studies of the *Erysiphales* have been published. So far, data regarding about 300 species belonging to 22 genera of powdery mildew fungi known from India were scattered in mycological literature. In 1995, N. D. Sharma and C. P. Khare compiled 'A check-list and selected bibliography of powdery mildew fungi of India'. Dr. Yudhbir S. Paul and Dr. Vijay K. Thakur working at the Department of Plant Pathology, CSK Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University, Palampur (India) attempted to compile all powdery mildew species reported from India, supplemented with new collections of *Erysiphaceae* on 86 different host species from various agro-ecological zones of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab region in north-west India during a study (2000–2003) under the ad hoc project 'Taxonomy of powdery mildew fungi prevalent in Himachal Pradesh'.

The introductory part of the monographic work 'Indian *Erysiphaceae*' contains a historical survey, a review of the literature, and general information on the morphology of this fungal group. A list of *Erysiphaceae* species described as new to India since 1947 along with references is included. The main part of this publication provides morphological keys to the genera of *Erysiphaceae* known from India (*Arthrocladiella*, *Blumeria*, *Erysiphe*, *Farmanomyces*, *Leveillula*, *Microsphaera*, *Phyllactinia*, *Pleochaeta*, *Podosphaera*, *Sphaerotheca*, *Uncinula*, *Uncinuliella*), and descriptions of 75 species and varieties based on morphological characters of both teleomorphs and anamorphs, and illustrations (line drawings) of them. Microphotographs of chasmothecia of *Erysiphe* species only are presented in the first part of the book.

This study proposes two new species and three new varieties in the genus *Sphaerotheca*, two new species and 19 new varieties in the genus *Erysiphe*, one new variety in the genus *Podosphaera*, one new combination and one new variety in the genus *Microsphaera*, one new species in the genus *Arthrocladiella*, two new species and four new varieties in the genus *Uncinula*, two new species in the genus *Uncinuliella*, two new species and six new varieties in the genus *Phyllactinia*, and one new species in the new genus *Farmanomyces*. Distinguishing features of the new taxa are given.

The book includes a host index, a fungus index and an up-to-date checklist of the *Erysiphaceae* from India along with the references. The list of cited literature is rich in classical and recent papers. On 14 pages, 520 references in a shortened form (without titles of papers) are given.

Recently, numerous nomenclatural changes in the generic taxonomy of the powdery mildew fungi, based on molecular and scanning electron microscopy examinations, have been introduced. Although the authors of the book do not adhere to the new generic system of the *Erysiphales*, this book will be useful to all plant pathologists and mycologists who are interested in this important group of fungi.

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