First report of powdery mildew caused by *Fibroidium heliotropii-indici* in *Heliotropium indicum* in Ecuador

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Heliotropium indicum L., known as ‘Rabo de Alacrán’ (Scorpion tail) in Spanish is an annual herbaceous weed which occurs associated with perennial and annual crops, and pastures in Ecuador (Vanegas and Muñoz 1984). In September 2017, during the dry season, a powdery mildew was observed on the leaves of *H. indicum* plants growing in the Agricultural Experimental Research Station ‘Litoral Sur’ in Yaguachi, Guayas province, Ecuador. A sample is deposited in the Herbarium of the Universidad de Guayaquil (accession No. GUAY 5230). The symptoms on leaves consisted initially of small circular white patches which enlarged and covered the entire leaf surface in later stages. Conidia obtained from the surface of infected leaves were hyaline, ellipsoid to ovoid shaped, $26\text{--}35 \times 13\text{--}17 \mu\text{m}$ in size (l/w ratio 1.6–2.8) and formed in chains. Germ tubes were observed arising from lateral sides of conidia. Based in the symptoms described by Soares (2010) and the morphology by Braun (1982), Braun and Cook (2012) and, Nayak and Babu (2017), it was

concluded that the fungus was *Fibroidium heliotropii-indici* (Sawada) U. Braun & R.T. Cook. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of a powdery mildew on *H. indicum* caused by *F. heliotropii-indici* in Ecuador.

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