A new record of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* infecting potato plants in China

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China is considered to be one of the world's leading producers of potato. In September 2019, during a plant disease survey in a few potato plantations in Hangzhou (Zhejiang province, East China, GPS coordinates: 30°17'37.14"N, 120°09'41.11"E), water-soaked lesions were observed in the lower parts of potato plants. Black, mature sclerotia, 6–15 mm in diam., appeared within dried beige-coloured lesions. On CDA, after 5–7 days at 21–23 °C, the myceliogenic germination of the sclerotia resulted in colonies consisting of hyaline-white, septate hyphae and globose to elliptical sclerotia. On carrot, carpogenic germination of air-dried sclerotia, previously stored at 4 °C for 55 days, was observed after 45 days at 21–23 °C (Ojaghian 2009). Sixty percent of sclerotia became stipitate and produced funnel-shaped apothecia. The genomic DNA, after extraction and PCR amplification with selective primers SsF (5'-AGTC GAGGGACGGGTACTAA-3') and SsR (5'-CTTG TCCTCATTGCCGTTT-3') gave a banding pattern identi-

cal to that of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* (Lib.) de Bary from potato in Iran (Ojaghian et al. 2016). The resulting sequence (GenBank accession No. MT080690) of 420 bp was 100% identical to *S. sclerotiorum* (MN099281, MN105884, MK074848). Pathogenicity of the fungus was tested on potato. Sterilized wheat grains colonized by the fungus were attached with cellophane to the stems of twenty 60-day-old potato plants grown from non-dormant tubers. After 5 days at 21–23 °C, white mycelium and sclerotia of *S. sclerotiorum* appeared on inoculated stems. There were no symptoms on control plants treated with sterile, non-infested wheat grains. To our knowledge, this is the first report of *S. sclerotiorum* on potato plants in China.

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