First report of *Neofusicoccum parvum* causing leaf spot of *Scaevola taccada* in China

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During a survey of diseased native plants in Xisha Islands, China from May 2018 to June 2019, a disease was mainly observed in lower leaves of *Scaevola taccada*. Early symptoms were water-soaked lesions in the leaf margin that later turned into yellowish-brown with dense black dots. Fragments of symptomatic leaves were surface-sterilized with 1% NaClO, plated on potato dextrose agar, and incubated at 25 °C in the dark. Morphologically similar colonies were isolated from all samples after 72 h incubation. The isolate ZD51 was selected for further pathogenicity test and identification. Pathogenicity test was conducted in triplicate by inoculating 10 mature wounded leaves of *S. taccada* with 20 µL of a conidial suspension (10⁶ conidia/mL). The negative control was inoculated with sterile water. The inoculated leaves were maintained at 25 °C with 85% relative humidity in a growth chamber. Characteristic water-soaked lesions were observed 3 days after inoculation only on inoculated leaves. The same fungus was reisolated from the lesions, thus fulfilling Koch's postulates. Fungal colonies were circular, fast-growing and with abundant white aerial mycelium which turned into olivaceous- to dark-grey. After 20 days, black globular pycnidia were developed. Conidia were hyaline, unicellular, thin-walled with smooth surface, ellipsoid with round apices, and measuring 12.5–21.5(17.3 ± 2.2) µm × 4.6–7.0 (5.7 ± 0.5) µm (*N*=100). Identification was performed by partially

sequencing the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) region, and the translation elongation factor 1-α (EF1-α) and β-tubulin (TUB) genes using the primers ITS4/ITS5 (White et al. 1990), EF1-728F/EF1-986R (Carbone and Kohn 1999) and BT-2a/BT-2b (Glass and Donaldson 1995), respectively. The obtained sequences were deposited in GenBank (MN378364, MN850332, MN850331). Nucleotide BLAST analyses showed common 99% similarity with *Neofusicoccum parvum* for ITS (EU860378), EF1-α (MK088732), and TUB (MG879024), respectively. To our knowledge, this is the first report of *N. parvum* causing leaf spot of *S. taccada* in China.

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