First report of pyracantha dieback caused by *Trichothecium roseum* in Iran

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Scarlet firethorn (*Pyracantha coccinea* M. Roem.) is an evergreen shrub belonging to the Rosaceae family. In 2015, *P. coccinea* plants exhibited dieback disease in Yazd province (central province of Iran). The main disease symptoms included progressive death of shoot tips and weak plants (the incidence of the disease was about 40%). From symptomatic plants, samples were collected and transferred to the laboratory. After superficially disinfection with 1% sodium hypochlorite, the symptomatic samples were plated on potato dextrose agar (PDA) medium and incubated at 28 ± 2 °C for 5 days (Basavand et al. 2020). The fungal colonies were pink-to-white and hyaline hyphae in appearance. Conidiophores were simple or branched and ellipsoidal or pyriform conidia (measured 15.4 to 19.2×7 to 10.2 μ m) formed in basipetal chains. These isolates were recognized as *Trichothecium roseum* (Pers.) Link based on morphological features (Wright et al. 2007). Genomic DNA of a reference isolate was extracted and the (ITS) region was amplified and sequenced (White et al. 1990). Sequence analysis (GenBank accession No. KR364570) with BLAST indicated the highest similarity (100%) with *T. roseum* isolates deposited in GenBank. Pathogenicity of isolates was tested on *P. coccinea* by inoculating three twigs from two plants in a greenhouse at 25 ± 2 °C. Mycelial plugs, 0.5 cm in diameter, were placed on surface-scratched twigs and control plants were inoculated with agar plugs. Two weeks following the appearance of dieback-like symptoms, the isolates inoculated

were re-isolated. To our knowledge, this is the first report of *T. roseum* on *P. coccinea* in Iran and worldwide.

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Declarations

Conflict of interest The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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