First report of stem canker of *Rosa* spp. caused by *Didymella pomorum* in Canada

Evgeny Ilyukhin¹

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Rosa is an important genus in the Rosaceae family and includes over 200 species (Gudin 2000). In Summer 2020, stem cankers were observed on rose plants in Southern Ontario, Canada. Up to 60% of plants were found to be cankered. Symptomatic plants were collected, sectioned, surface sterilized, rinsed with sterile water, and dried. Stem segments were then plated on malt extract agar (MEA) and incubated at room temperature in the dark. After 4 days, hyphal tips were transferred to fresh MEA plates and incubated as described. The fungal colonies that emerged from rose samples were fast-growing, grey-brown, forming aerial mycelium. Conidia were abundant, ellipsoid and dark brown ($3.6 \times 2.2 \mu\text{m}$, $N=50$). Sequence analysis of the internal transcribed spacers (ITS) and of the large subunit rRNA (LSU) was performed and the obtained ITS (MZ379419, MZ379420) and LSU (MZ928446, MZ928447) sequences both had 100% identity with the *Coniothyrium pyrinum* strain (MH856053, MH867548 (CBS 110.40)). The sequences obtained from our samples clustered with *C. pyrinum* strains isolated from *Glaucium flavum* and formed a distinct clade with strong bootstrap support based on the maximum parsimony and the maximum likelihood analyses. *C. pyrinum* is currently a synonym of *Didymella pomorum* (Chen et al. 2015). For pathogenicity tests, ten healthy rose plants were inoculated with the fungus mycelium placed on a wound generated with a scalpel. Three control plants were inoculated as above but using a sterile medium. The plants were kept outdoors with normal temperature and humidity. After fourteen days, the necrotic lesions were clearly

observed. No disease symptoms were noticed for control plants. The fungus was re-isolated from eight of ten inoculated plants. The species has been reported to be associated with branch dieback of almond trees in India (Fazli and Razdan 1991), but, based on available information, this is the first record of *D. pomorum* in Canada on this host.

Declarations

Conflict of interest The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare that are relevant to the content of this article.

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✉ Evgeny Ilyukhin
evgeny.ilyukhin@gmail.com; eilyukhin@brocku.ca

¹ Department of Biological Sciences, Brock University,
St. Catharines, ON, Canada