Sporisorium andrewmitchelli

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Sporisorium andrewmitchellii R.G. Shivas, McTaggart & Vánky, sp. nov.

Etymology. Named after Andrew Arthur Mitchell (1949--), a botanist and friend, who has collected many rare and unusual smut fungi on grasses and sedges in Australia.

Sori on the top of sterile shoots destroying the basal part of the uppermost, congested, swollen leaf sheaths and leaves. Spores single, sparsely echinulate; columellae absent ............. U. schlechteri

2. Spores in balls, densely verruculose; columellae present .......... S. andrewmitchellii

3. Sori in whole inflorescence ........................................ 4

4. Sori only in the inflorescence; spores 10.5–13.5(–14.5) µm long ..................... U. enneapogonis

5. Sori also in the basal part of the uppermost leaves; spores 9.5–12 µm long ..................... U. pappophori

6. Sori in flowers ..................................................... 6

7. Sori also in ovaries; spores 9–12 µm long. U. schmidtiae

8. Sori in all flowers; columellae and sterile cells present; spores 11–14 µm long ..................... S. modestum

9. Sori in some flowers; columellae and sterile cells absent; spores 6.5–9(–10) µm long ............. U. austroafricana

Notes — Six smut fungi are known on grasses in the tribe Pappophorae of the subfam. Chloridoideae, i.e. on Enneapogon, Pappophorum, and Schmidtiaceae. These are, Sporisorium modestum, Ustilago austroafricana, U. enneapogonis, U. pappophori, U. schlechteri, and U. schmidtiaceae (Vánky 2012). A key to the smut fungi of the tribe Pappophorae follows.

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