**Bipolaris drechsleri** Manamgoda & Minnis, *sp. nov.*

**Etymology.** Named in honour of Charles Drechsler (1892–1986), a USDA scientist who worked on this group of fungi.

**Leaf spots** irregular, small, distinct, purplish, with dark margin, surrounded by a chlorotic halo. *Conidiophores* macromonotous, arising singly or in groups of two to three, straight to flexuous, cylindrical, geniculate in upper part, simple or with one dichotomous branch, pale brown, septate, smooth-walled, (74–)95–300(–602) × 4–6 μm (μ = 250, SD = 152, n = 35; μ = 5, SD = 1, n = 35). *Conidiogenous cells* integrated, intercalary, with sympodial proliferation, monotretic or polytretic, dark brown, with circular scars. *Conidia* effuse, velvety, concolorous; stromata not formed in culture. Reverse black, with white margin, diam on PDA (Difco) after 5 d at 25 °C in dark, white when young, becoming whitish grey at maturity; margin irregular, 80(–102) μm × dark brown, with circular scars.

**Culture characteristics** — Colonies (35–)45–60(–70) mm diam on PDA; conidiophores and conidia (scale bar = 50 μm, all others = 10 μm); conidiophores; conidia.

**Additional material examined.** USA, Indiana, Big Oaks Wildlife Refuge, on living leaves of Microstegium vimineum, 2010, N. Kleczewski (holotype BPI 892682; ex-type culture AR4841 = CBS 136207, MycoBank MB 805272).

**Phylogenetic analysis** — A concatenated alignment of both ITS and GPDH loci was made using the sequence data of *B. drechsleri* and Bipolaris sequences obtained from GenBank. A maximum likelihood search was performed using the RAxML BlackBox v. 7.6.3 in CIPRES Science platform (Miller et al. 2010). Parsimony trees were inferred by PAUP v. 4.0b10 (Swofford 2003) using a heuristic search option with 1 000 random sequence additions. The alignment and tree were uploaded to TreeBASE (ID 14626).

**Notes** — The host Microstegium vimineum, common name Japanese stilt grass, is an annual grass in the Poaceae, subfamily Panicoideae, tribe Andropogoneae. Currently, *M. vimineum* is one of a number of serious non-native invasive species in the eastern United States (Flory et al. 2011). The fungal genus *Bipolaris* includes a number of grass pathogens (Manamgoda et al. 2011). Recently a new species occurring on *Microstegium vimineum* was described as *B. microstegii* (Crous et al. 2012a). *Bipolaris drechsleri* has conidial dimensions similar to *B. microstegii*, but *B. drechsleri* has shorter conidiophores and conidiophores with more proliferations than *B. microstegii*. Overlapping conidial dimensions between species is common in the genus *Bipolaris* (Sivanesan 1987) and a phylogenetic species recognition criterion is essential for defining species in this genus (Manamgoda et al. 2011). Comparing ITS and GPDH with the available data in GenBank revealed that the fungus belongs in *Bipolaris sensu Manamgoda et al. (2012).* *Bipolaris microstegii* is phylogenetically close to *B. victoriae* and *B. zeicola*, but the latter two species do not show a close phylogenetic relationship with *B. drechsleri*, which clusters with *B. melindis.*

Phylogram generated from maximum parsimony analysis based on combined ITS and GPDH gene sequences. Parsimony bootstrap values/RAxML rapid bootstrap estimations ≥ 60 % are shown above the branches. GenBank numbers of included sequences for each species are given as ITS/ GPDH.

**Colour illustrations.** Collection site in West Virginia; *Bipolaris drechsleri* (AR 4841). Symptom development on *Microstegium vimineum*; culture on PDA; conidiophores and conidia (scale bar = 50 μm, all others = 10 μm); conidiophores; conidia.

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**Dimuthu S. Manamgoda,** Systematic Mycology & Microbiology Laboratory, USDA-ARS, 10300 Baltimore Ave., Beltsville, MD 20705, USA; Institute of Excellence in Fungal Research, Mae Fah Luang University, Chiang Rai 57100, Thailand; e-mail: dsmannamgoda@gmail.com

**Andrew M. Minnis,** Center for Forest Mycology Research, Northern Research Station, USDA-Forest Service, One Gifford Pinchot Dr., Madison, WI 53726, USA; e-mail: ammninnis@fs.fed.us

**Nathan M. Kleczewski,** Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, The University of Delaware,145 Townsend Hall, Newark, DE 19719, USA; e-mail: nk1leezew@udel.edu

**S. Luke Flory,** Agronomy Department, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA; e-mail: flory@ufl.edu

**Lisa A. Castlebury,** Systematic Mycology & Microbiology Laboratory, USDA-ARS, 10300 Baltimore Ave., Beltsville, MD 20705, USA; e-mail: Lisa.Castlebury@ars.usda.gov

**Keith Clay,** Department of Biology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47405, USA; e-mail: clay@indiana.edu

**Kevin D. Hyde,** Institute of Excellence in Fungal Research and School of Science, Mae Fah Luang University, Chiang Rai 57100, Thailand; e-mail: kdhyde3@gmail.com

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