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**Helminthosporiella** Hern.-Restr., G.A. Sarria & Crous, *gen. nov.*

*Etymology.* Similar to the genus *Helminthosporium.*

*Classification — Massarinaceae, Pleosporales, Dothideomycetes.*

**Mycelium** superficial and immersed, hyphae hyaline to pale brown, smooth, branched, septate. **Conidiophores** erect, brown to red-brown, synnematous, septic, compacted. **Conidiogenous cells** polytretic, sympodial, integrated, determinate, terminal, cylindrical. **Conidia** catenate in easily disarticulating chains, obclavate, subcylindrical, occasionally bifurcate, brown, distoseptate, hilum darkened, thickened and refractive. **Sexual morph** unknown.

*Type species.* *Helminthosporiella stibacea* (Moreau) Hern.-Restr., G.A. Sarria & Crous.

Mycbank MB816988.


≡ Helminthosporium stibaceum (Moreau) S. Hughes, Mycol. Pap. 48: 38. 1952.


**Mycelium** superficial and immersed, hyphae hyaline to pale brown, smooth, branched, septate. **Conidiophores** erect, brown to red-brown, synnematous, septate, compacted, 620–1400 µm diam after 1 wk at 25 °C in the dark. Velvety, with concentric rings and some black spots in the agar, olivaceous to green polytretic, sympodial, integrated, determinate, terminal, cylindrical, 31–67 × 4.5–7 µm, straight or curved at the apex. **Conidia** catenate in easily disarticulating chains, obclavate, subcyindrical, occasionally bifurcate, medium brown, 26–83 × 7–10 µm, (1–)3–5(–6)-distoseptate, striate-wall, hilum darkened, thickened and refractive.

*Characteristics — Colonies on OA, reaching 9–12 mm diam after 1 wk at 25 °C in the dark. Velvety, with concentric rings and some black spots in the agar, olivaceous to green olivaceous, margin entire, white; reverse grey olivaceous. Colonies on MEA, reaching 20–27 mm diam after 1 wk at 25 °C in the dark. Velvety, elevate, dark brick, margin irregular, reverse vinaceous buff.*

*Specimen examined.* COLOMBIA, Barrancabermeja, CENIPALMA, on leaves of *Elaeis oleifera,* May 2013, G. Andrea Sarria (culture CPHmZC-01, ITS sequence GenBank KX228298.1, LSU sequence GenBank KX228355.1, MycoBank MB816989).

**Notes** — This species was initially introduced as *Corynespora palmicola f. stibacea* by Moreau (1947) as a ‘form’, different from *C. palmicola* due to the presence of a ‘coremium’. Later it was transferred to *Exosporium* (Ellis 1961). Nevertheless, the generic placement of this species is doubtful in *Corynespora* or *Exosporium* and was tentatively accepted in *Helminthosporium* (Braun et al. 2014). *Helminthosporium* as well as *Helminthosporiella* are asexual genera in *Massarinaceae* with polytretic conidiogenous cells and distoseptate conidia. However, they are molecular and morphologically different. *Helminthosporiella* shows terminal conidiogenous cells and catenate conidia and species of *Helminthosporium* have both terminal and intercalary conidiogenous cells and solitary conidia. Another genus morphologically similar is *Corynespora*. But *Helminthosporiella* differs from *Corynespora* in having polytretic and sympodial, instead of monotretic and percurrent conidiogenous cells. Unfortunately, it was not possible to propose a formal epi- or neotypification, since the geographical origin of the specimen examined was not the same as described in the protologue (Democratic Republic of the Congo).

**ITS.** Based on a megablast search of NCBI’s GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the ITS sequences are *Helminthosporium velutinum* (GenBank JN198435; Identities = 446/480 (93 %), Gaps = 5/480 (1 %)), *Helminthosporium* sp. (GenBank KJ877647; Identities = 447/480 (93 %), Gaps = 9/480 (1 %)) and *Helminthosporum* sp. (GenBank JN662484, Identities = 496/552 (90 %), Gaps = 16/552 (2 %)).

**LSU.** Based on a megablast search of NCBI’s GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the LSU sequences are *Corynespora leucadendri* (GenBank KF251654, Identities = 820/840 (98 %), Gaps = 7/840 (0 %)), *Corynespora Olivacea* (GenBank JQ044448, Identities = 831/858 (97 %), Gaps = 6/858 (0 %)) and *Byssothecium circinans* (GenBank KY016357; Identities = 830/858 (97 %), Gaps = 7/858 (0 %)) (MycoBank supplementary data).

**Colour illustrations.** Nursery of *Elaeis oleifera* in CENIPALMA, Colombia; *Helminthosporiella stibacea*: synnemata, conidiogenous cells and conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.

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