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CDF Checklist of Galapagos Water Molds

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Abstract

This Checklist of Galapagos Water Molds includes a total of all 2 taxa reported from the Galapagos Islands.

For each name, detailed information is provided: its Galapagos distribution in islands groups or bioregions generated from the specimen records, comments about the taxonomy (especially synonyms), the origin (native and introduced), taxon status (accepted vs. rejected records) and relevant literature references.

Introduction

This publication lists all species of Galapagos Water Molds currently known.

The name **Oomycota** is a combination of the Greek name for “egg” and “fungus” because many species have egg-shaped spores.

Many live in humid or aquatic environments and a common name for this group of organisms is therfore **water molds**.

Despite their name, the Oomycota are not related to the true fungi, but form a distinct phylogenetic group of microorganisms that grow in long filaments of cells.

Like true fungi, they are also heterotrophic, absorptive organisms.

Most species are sapropes (organisms feeding on organic mater) or pathogens, perhaps best known for such devastating diseases as the potato blight, a water mold infecting potatoes and responsible for the great Irish potato famine in 1845-46 that indirectly caused the death of more than 1 million people from starvation.

In Galapagos, water molds remain virtually unknown with the current checklist including only two species.

Methods

This checklist of all known Galapagos Water Molds is automatically generated using the online database of the Charles Darwin Foundation Galapagos Species Checklist.

All CDF Galapagos Species Checklists represent the synthesis of many different records: literature citations, data from previously unpublished reports (grey literature), specimen records of natural history collections located in Galapagos and all over the world. To the best of their knowledge authors of the individual checklists revised all available data. When new information becomes available, the taxonomy of a group changes or new species are discovered, the CDF online database and thus this publication becomes updated.

For many poorly known species groups the higher taxonomic classification still regularly changes according to how our knowledge about species being related changes. In many well known groups the phylogeny is somewhat stable, but to avoid confusion, in particular for groups where taxonomic changes are frequent, all checklists presented here are sorted alphabetical according to genus name and specific epithet. Please refer to the website for the currently accepted taxonomic hierarchy of each group.

Please be aware that the distribution presented here is automatically generated from specimen records and does not always accurately reflect the known distribution for all species.

For marine species, the distribution generally refers to the five main bioregions of the archipelago (Far Northern, Northern, Western, South Eastern and the Elisabeth Bay Bioregion). For the terrestrial species more than 120 islands, islets and small rocks have been aggregated into Islands Groups, thus, for example, the island group "Santa Cruz" includes smaller islands like Santa Fé, Plaza Norte, Plaza Sur, Baltra, Daphne Mayor, Daphne Minor, and others.

IUCN red-list assessments presented here may deviate from the global IUCN list for the following reasons:

- for well known species groups like vascular plants or vertebrates updates proposed to the IUCN are shown instead of the outdated, but currently accepted status;
- for poorly known species groups (e.g., lichenized fungi) a general assessment is currently not possible and the list presented here is a regional red-list list for Galapagos archipelago.

Numbers of the species included in this list are auto-generated. Adding up the number of species in each category will not always equal the total number indicated. Some species have insufficient data to be categorized while others (e.g., category eradicated) will not be included in the total.

Results

Names of taxa included in this checklist: 2 (1 accepted, 1 preliminary identification).

Origin of the taxa included: 1 cultivated.

1. ***Pseudoperonospora cubensis*** (Berk. & M.A. Curtis) Rostovzev
   Taxon status: Identification not yet confirmed.
   Origin: Introduced, Cultivated.
   Galapagos Distribution: San Cristóbal.

2. ***Saprolegnia ferax*** (Gruith.) Nees
   Taxon status: Accepted name; taxon occurs in Galapagos.
   Origin: No Data.
   Galapagos Distribution: Santa Cruz.

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Please do not hesitate to contact us; your input is very welcome. However, please understand that additions, changes, and corrections will be posted at periodic intervals after thorough cross-referencing of all new data. As an independent international scientific organization, the Charles Darwin Foundation relies on funding from donors who support our work. Please contact us at datazone@fcdarwin.org.ec if you would like to support the Charles Darwin Foundation Galapagos Species Checklist and help make knowledge of Galapagos biodiversity more widely available.