



First report of *Curvularia lunata* causing leaf spots on Partridge tea [*Mallotus oblongifolius* (Miq.) Müll. Arg.] in China

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A leaf spot disease was observed in an experimental station of Hainan University in Haikou, Hainan province, China. Lesions began as small circular spots with a chlorotic halo, which later developed yellow centers and a dark brown banding pattern on the margins ranging from 0.6 to 2.9 mm. The fungus was isolated on PDA forming cultures that were initially light grey, then becoming black. Conidiophores were erect, dark brown, geniculate and unbranched. Conidia were crescent-shaped, mostly 3-septate, with one of the middle two cells slightly enlarged and measured 14.53 to 20.85 µm long × 7.77 to 11.69 µm wide. The ITS region of rDNA and *GAPDH* gene of the fungus were amplified with primer pair ITS4/ ITS5 and GDF/GDR respectively, and deposited in GenBank (Accession Nos. MG642982 for ITS and MG642981 for *GAPDH*). Phylogenetic analysis clustered with the *C. lunata* strain CBS173.57 with high bootstrap support (Manamgoda et al. 2012). Morphological and molecular observations described above suggested the fungus was *Curvularia lunata* (Wakker) Boed (Macri and Lenna 1974). The isolate was kept in Key Laboratory of Green Prevention and Control of Tropical Plant Diseases and Pests (Hainan University). Koch's postulates were performed by spraying 60-day-old Partridge tea plants with a 1×10^6 CFU/ml aque-

ous suspension derived from the monosporic cultures. Three control plants were treated with sterile water only. After one week at 28 °C and 85% relative humidity, circular spots with a chlorotic halo developed on the inoculated leaves and the re-isolated colonies were identified as *C. lunata*. No symptoms were observed on the control plants. To our knowledge, this is the first report of *C. lunata* on Partridge tea in China.

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Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Research involving human participants and/or animals The authors declare that no human participants and animals were involved in this study.

Informed consent This manuscript is new and not being considered elsewhere. All authors have approved the submission of this manuscript.

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