

Three new species of *Exobasidium* (*Exobasidiales*) from China

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Abstract—Three new species, *Exobasidium kunmingense* on *Lyonia ovalifolia*, *Exobasidium lushanense* on *Rhododendron simsii* and *Exobasidium rhododendri-russati* on *R. russatum*, are reported from Yunnan and Jiangxi Provinces. *Exobasidium kunmingense* and *E. lushanense* cause leaf spots on leaves and *E. rhododendri-russati* causes small galls on leaves and stems.

Key words—*Ustilaginomycetes*, symptoms, taxonomy

According to Nannfeldt (1981), the number and size of sterigmata, the size of basidiospores and the germination form are used for the identification species of *Exobasidium*.

The first new species was collected from Yunnan Province in 2007. It is parasitic on *Lyonia ovalifolia*, causing leaf spots, concave on the lower surface. The leaf spot is red and about 4.5–15 mm in diam. There are one or more diseased parts on each leaf. The host plant belongs to the subfamily *Andromedoideae* of *Ericaceae*. Transverse sections of the diseased leaf show neither hypertrophy nor hyperplasia of plant cells. Hyphae protrude between epidermal cells, forming a continuous thick layer on the lower surfaces of the leaves at maturity. It is described as:

Exobasidium kunmingense Zhen Ying Li & L. Guo, sp. nov.

FIGS. 1, 4–5

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Hymenium hypophyllum. Basidia cylindrica, 4–6 μm lata, hyalina, terminaliter 3–6 sterigmatibus 3–4 \times 1–1.2(–1.8) μm praedita. Basidiosporae cylindricae, 12–17 \times 3–4 μm , hyalinae, laeves, curvae, primo continuae, dein 1(–3)-septatae, per hyphas germinantes.

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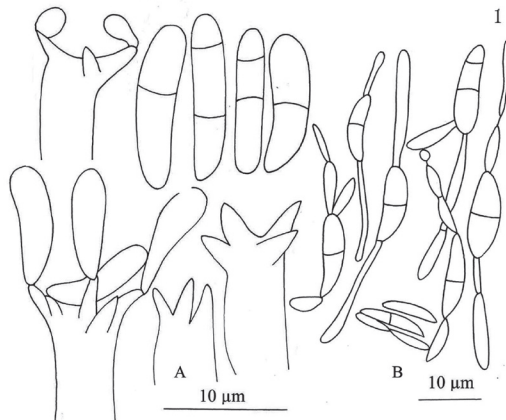


FIG. 1. Line drawings of *Exobasidium kunmingense* on *Lyonia ovalifolia* (HMAS 173147, holotype).
 A. Basidia, sterigmata and basidiospores. B. Basidiospore germination.

Hymenium hypophyllous. Basidia cylindrical, 4–6 µm wide, hyaline, with 3–6 sterigmata. Sterigmata conical, 3–4 × 1–1.2(–1.8) µm. Basidiospores cylindrical, 12–17 × 3–4 µm, hyaline, smooth, at first continuous, then 1(–3)-septate, slightly curved, germinating by short germ tubes.

SPECIMEN EXAMINED—On *Lyonia ovalifolia* (Wall.) Drude (*Ericaceae*), Yunnan: Luquan, Zhelaocun, alt. 2520 m, 1 VII 2006, Z.Y. Li & L. Guo 335, HMAS 173147 (holotype).

Colonies on PDA grew gradually to a maximum 9 mm diameter in 21-day incubation at 25°C. The colony was leathery, pale yellow and corrugate on the surface, mainly composed of conidia. Conidia bacilliform and 5–9 × 1–1.2(–1.8) µm.

Exobasidium kunmingense is similar to *E. lyoniae* Zhen Ying Li & L. Guo (Li & Guo 2006a) from which it mainly differs in the number of sterigmata (3–6 vs. 2–5).

The second new species was collected from Jiangxi Province in 2007. It is parasitic on *Rhododendron simsii*, causing leaf spots. There are one or more diseased parts on each leaf. The host plant belongs to the subfamily *Rhododendroideae* of *Ericaceae*. Transverse sections of the diseased leaf show hypertrophy of plant cells. Hyphae protrude between epidermal cells, forming a continuous thick layer on the lower surface of the leaves at maturity. It is described as:

***Exobasidium lushanense* Zhen Ying Li & L. Guo, sp. nov.** FIGS. 2, 6–7
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Hymenium hypophyllum. Basidia cylindrica, 36–60 × 5.5–7 µm, hyalina, terminaliter (2–)3–6 sterigmatibus 3–4 × 1–1.5 µm praedita. Basidiosporae cylindricae vel clavatae,

(7.2-)9-13(-15) × 3-4 μm, hyalinae, laeves, primo continuae, dein 1-3-septatae, curvae, per hyphas germinantes.

Hymenium hypophyllous. Basidia cylindrical, 36-60 × 5.5-7 μm, hyaline, with (2-)3-6 sterigmata. Sterigmata conical, 3-4 × 1-1.5 μm. Basidiospores cylindrical or clavate, (7.2-)9-13(-15) × 3-4 μm, hyaline, smooth, at first continuous, then 1-3-septate, and slightly curved, germinating by germ tubes.

SPECIMEN EXAMINED—On *Rhododendron simsii* Planch. (*Ericaceae*), Jiangxi: Lushan Botanical Garden, alt. 1100 m, 14 V 2007, Z.Y. Li & L. Guo 631, HMAS 173148 (holotype).

Colonies on PDA grew gradually to a maximum 10 mm diameter in 21-day incubation at 25°C. The colony was leathery, pale yellow and smooth on the surface, mainly composed of hyphae.

Exobasidium lushanense is similar to *E. japonicum* Shirai (Shirai 1896, Ezuka 1990) from which it mainly differs in causing leaf spots, while *E. japonicum* causes leaf hypertrophy and deformation.

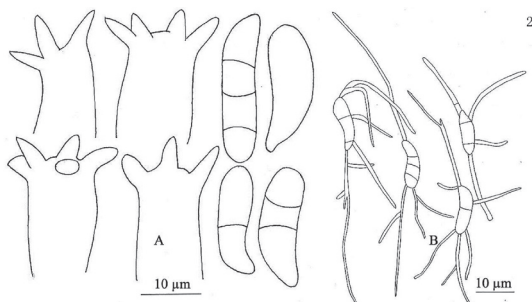


FIG. 2. Line drawings of *Exobasidium lushanense* on *Rhododendron simsii* (HMAS 173148, holotype). A. Basidia, sterigmata and basidiospores. B. Basidiospore germination.

The third new species parasitizes on young leaves of *Rhododendron russatum*, causing small galls on leaves and stems. Transverse sections of the diseased leaf show hypertrophy and hyperplasia of plant cells. Hyphae protrude between epidermal cells, forming a continuous thick layer on the surfaces of the galls at maturity. There are 2-3(-4) sterigmata per basidium.

Exobasidium rhododendri-russati Zhen Ying Li & L. Guo, sp. nov. FIGS. 3, 8-9
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Hymenium album. Basidia cylindrica or clavata, 13-30 × 4-6 μm, hyalina, terminaliter 2-3(-4) sterigmatibus (2-)4.5-5.5 × 1-2 μm praedita. Basidiosporae cylindricae vel ellipsoideae, 11-16 × 2-3 μm, hyalinae, laeves, primo continuae, dein 1-3(-5)-septatae, curvatae, per hyphas germinantes.

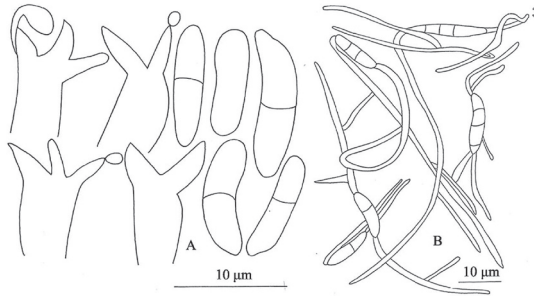


FIG. 3. Line drawings of *Exobasidium rhododendri-russati* on *Rhododendron russatum* (HMAS 183433, holotype). A. Basidia, sterigmata and basidiospores. B. Basidiospore germination.

Hymenium white. Basidia cylindrical or clavate, 13–30 x 4–6 µm, hyaline, with 2–3(–4) sterigmata. Sterigmata conical, (2–)4.5–5.5 x 1–2 µm. Basidiospores cylindrical or ellipsoidal, 11–16 x 2–3 µm, hyaline, smooth, at first continuous, then 1–3(–5)-septate, slightly curved, germinating by germ tubes.

SPECIMEN EXAMINED—On *Rhododendron russatum* Balf. f. & Forrest (*Ericaceae*), Yunnan: Xianggelila, Yisicun, alt.3300 m, 26 IX 2007, Z.Y. Li, L. Guo & S. H. He 724, HMAS 183433 (holotype).

Colonies on PDA grew gradually to a maximum 10 mm diameter in 21-day incubation at 25°C. The colony was leathery, yellow and corrugate on the surface, mainly composed of conidia. Conidia linear, 6–17 x 0.5 µm.

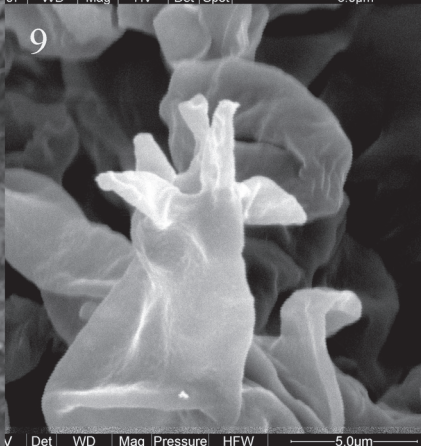
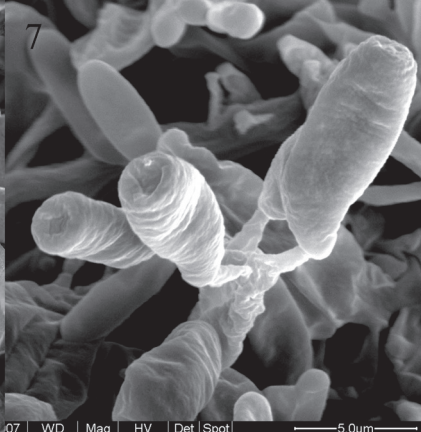
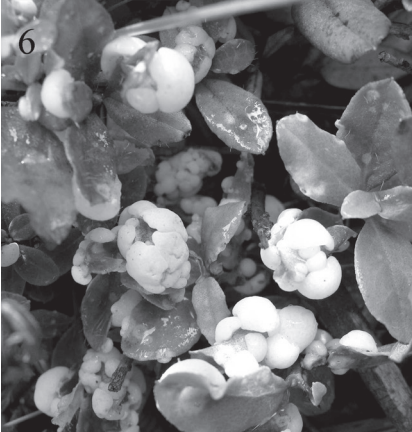
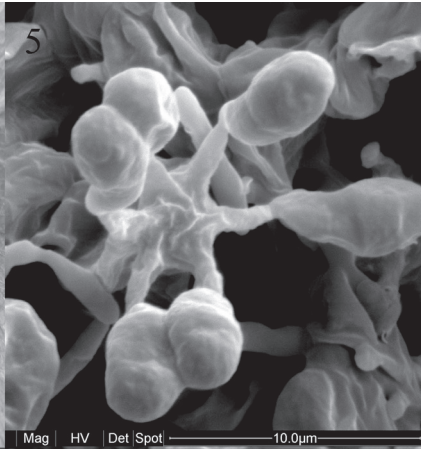
Exobasidium rhododendri-russati is similar to *E. rhododendri-nivalis* Zhen Ying Li & L. Guo (Li & Guo 2008c) on *Rhododendron nivale* Hook. f. from which it mainly differs in having larger basidiospores (11–16 x 2–3 vs. 10.2–13 x 2.5–3 µm).

To date, 32 species of *Exobasidium* have been recorded in China (Sawada 1922, Teng 1963, Tai 1979, Guo et al. 1991, Zang 1996, Li & Guo 2006a, b, 2008a, b,c) including the three new species in this paper.

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FIGS. 4–5. *Exobasidium kunmingense* on *Lyonia ovalifolia* (HMAS 173147, holotype). FIG. 4. Symptoms. FIG. 5. Basidium, sterigmata and basidiospores as seen by SEM. FIGS. 6–7. *Exobasidium lushanense* on *Rhododendron simsii* (HMAS 173148, holotype). FIG.6. Symptoms. FIG. 7. Basidium, sterigmata and basidiospores as seen by SEM. FIGS. 8–9. *Exobasidium rhododendri-russati* on *Rhododendron russatum* (HMAS 183433, holotype). FIG. 8. Symptom. FIG. 9. Basidium, sterigmata and basidiospores as seen by SEM.



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