

Two new species of *Graphidaceae* (lichenized *Ascomycota*) from Brazil

MANUELA DAL-FORNO* & SIONARA ELIASARO

manudalforno@hotmail.com

Depto. Botânica, Biológicas, Universidade Federal do Paraná

Cx. P. 19031, 81531-970, Curitiba, PR – Brazil

Abstract – *Phaeographis flavescens* and *Thalloloma pontalense* are described as new species. These species were found growing in restinga in Southern Brazil.

Key words – lichenized fungi, lichens, *Ostropales*, Paraná

Introduction

The family *Graphidaceae* Dumort. contains about 1000 species and is an important component of the lichen biota in tropical and subtropical regions (Staiger et al. 2006). During a survey of *Graphidaceae* in Paraná State, Southern Brazil, one new species of *Phaeographis* and one new species of *Thalloloma*, both with stictic acid, were encountered.

Phaeographis Müll. Arg. is a genus characterized by brown ascospores reacting I+ wine-red, generally inspersed hymenia, poorly developed and uncarbonized excipula and lirellae with exposed discs (Staiger 2002, Archer 2006, Cáceres 2007, Lücking & Rivas-Plata 2008).

Thalloloma Trevis. is characterized mainly by the ecorticate thallus and lirellae with brown or red exposed discs, hyaline ascospores reacting I+ violet, uncarbonized excipula and clear hymenia (Staiger 2002, Archer 2006, Cáceres 2007, Lücking & Rivas-Plata 2008).

The new species are described and illustrated below.

Materials and methods

The new species were described from specimens collected in a typical Brazilian coastal vegetation forest, known as restinga, in Paraná State, Southern Brazil. The

*Present address: Audubon Center of the North Woods,
PO BOX 530, Sandstone, MN, USA 55072

specimens were examined using standard stereoscopic and light microscopic techniques. Sections of thalli and ascomata were mounted in water, 10% KOH and Lugol's Solution. All measurements were made in water. Chemical constituents were identified by thin layer chromatography (Culbertson & Ammann 1979, Elix & Ernst-Russell 1993) and by comparison with authentic samples.

Taxonomy

Phaeographis flavescens Dal-Forno & Eliasaro, sp. nov.

FIG. 1

MYCOBANK 513534

Simile *Phaeographis intricans sed acidum sticticum continente differt.*

TYPE: BRAZIL. PARANÁ: Pontal do Paraná. PONTAL DO SUL, 28.II.2008, S25°34'11.1" W48°21'32.4", M. Dal-Forno 433 (HOLOTYPE-UPCB).

ETYMOLOGY: The specific epithet is derived from the Latin *flavus*, and it refers to the yellow color of the thallus after the application of potassium hydroxide solution.

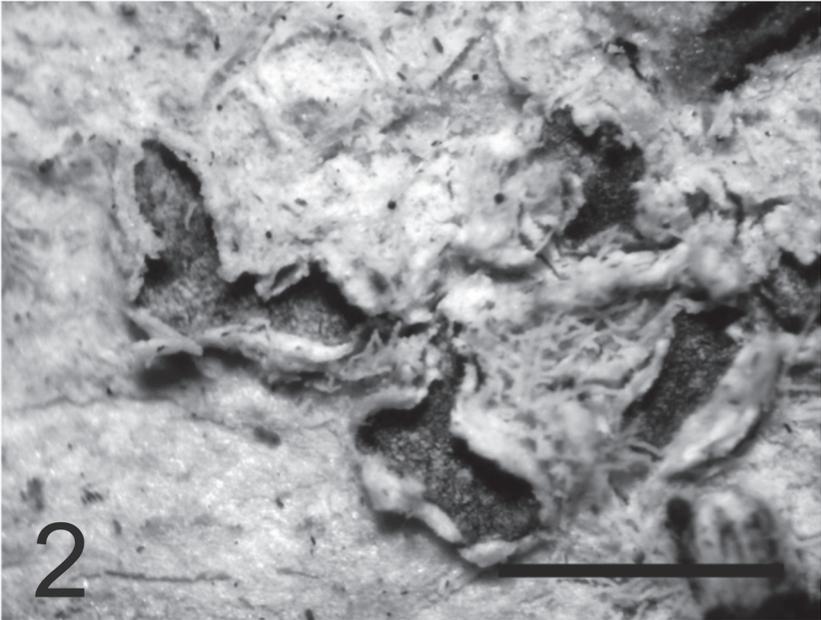
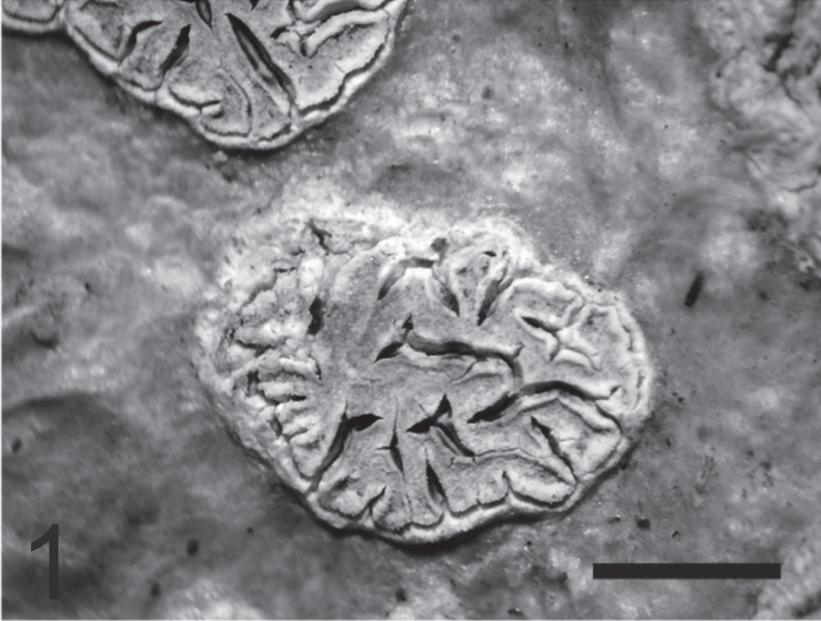
Thallus corticolous, epiperidermal, continuous, 130–140 µm thick, with crystals; surface green to yellowish green, dull, smooth; corticate. Ascomata lirelliform, immersed in pseudostromata, flexuose, branched, 0.3–2.0 mm long, 0.2–0.3 mm wide, with small lateral cracks; disc exposed, grey with white pruina; pseudostromata conspicuous, pale yellow, distinctly raised from the thallus, 150–200 µm high, with crystals; labia entire; excipulum uncarbonized, 85–125 µm high, laterally rudimentary, base well developed, yellow, 25 µm high. Hymenium clear, 60–100 µm high, 125–175 µm wide, I–; paraphyses unbranched but with branched tips, filiform, 1.0–1.5 µm thick, hyaline, with brown tips; ascospores 8 per ascus, brown, I+ wine-red, ellipsoid, transversely (3–)5-septate, 21–25 × 6–7 µm.

CHEMISTRY: thallus K+ yellow, stictic acid and other stictic acid satellites present.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS EXAMINED – BRAZIL. PARANÁ: Pontal do Paraná. PONTAL DO SUL, 28.II.2008, S25°34'11.1" W48°21'32.4" M. Dal-Forno 336, 346, 371, 377 (UPCB).

COMMENTS – *Phaeographis flavescens* is characterized by immersed lirellae in a pale yellow prominent pseudostroma, with greyish white pruinose discs, an uncarbonized excipulum, a clear hymenium, brown, small and transversely 5-septate ascospores, and the presence of stictic acid and other related compounds.

This species is very similar to species in *Sarcographa* Fée, suggested by the formation of well defined stromatic clusters, conspicuously raised from the thallus, and by the chemistry. In addition, *Phaeographis flavescens* possesses small slits in the margins of the lirellae, which could be confused with the characteristic transverse fissures of *Sarcographa*. Despite these characteristics,



FIGURES 1–2: New species of *Graphidaceae* from Brazil. 1: *Phaeographis flavescens* (holotype, UPCB); 2: *Thalloloma pontalense* (holotype, UPCB); bars = 1 mm.

the brown ascospores reacting I+ wine-red, lirellae with exposed discs and the clear hymenia place the new species in the genus *Phaeographis*. The absence of carbonization in the exciple excludes the possibility of the new species being a species of *Sarcographa* or other related genus.

Sarcographa cuyabensis Redinger is very similar to *P. flavescens*, differing by the slightly smaller ascospores, (12–)15–18 µm long, and the indistinct pseudostroma (Redinger 1933).

Phaeographis intricans (Nyl.) Staiger closely resembles *P. flavescens*, differing only in the lichen compounds present: norstictic acid in *P. intricans* (Nylander 1863, Staiger 2002) and stictic acid and related compounds in *P. flavescens*.

***Thalloloma pontalense* Dal-Forno & Eliasaro, sp. nov.**

FIG. 2

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Simile *Thalloloma anguinum* sed *lirellas latiores et acidum sticticum continente differt.*

TYPE: BRAZIL. PARANÁ: Pontal do Paraná. PONTAL DO SUL, 28.II.2008, S25°34'02.2" W48°22'01.8", M. Dal-Forno 592 (HOLOTYPE-UPCB).

ETYMOLOGY: The specific epithet is derived from the type locality, Pontal do Sul, Southern Brazil.

Thallus corticolous, epidermal, continuous, 40–70 µm high, with crystals; surface whitish pale grey, dull, smooth; corticate. Ascomata lirelliform, flexuose, unbranched to branched, immersed to erumpent, 0.8–1.0 mm long, 0.3–0.4 mm wide; disc exposed, pale brown pruinose; thalline margin laterally present, conspicuous, 200–225 µm high, 45–50 µm thick, extending beyond the hymenium and excipulum; labia entire; excipulum uncarbonized, 75–100 µm high, rudimentary. Hymenium clear, 75–100 µm high, 220–230 µm wide, I–; paraphyses branched and anastomosing, filiform, 1.0 µm thick, hyaline, with brown tips; ascospores 8 per ascus, hyaline to slightly brownish, I+ violet-blue, ellipsoid, muriform, 11–13 × 3–4-locular, 45–55 × 14–15 µm.

CHEMISTRY: thallus K+ yellow, stictic acid present.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS EXAMINED – BRAZIL. PARANÁ: Pontal do Paraná. PONTAL DO SUL, 28.II.2008, S25°34'02.2" W48°22'01.8" M. Dal-Forno 581 (UPCB).

COMMENTS – *Thalloloma pontalense* is characterized by the oblong to slightly elongated ascomata, not showing the typical shape of a lirella, with exposed, brown pruinose discs, muriform ascospores with 40–50 µm and presence of stictic acid.

Stictic acid is one of the most common lichen compounds found in the *Graphidaceae* (Staiger 2002) but it is uncommon in the genus *Thalloloma*. It occurs in *T. patulum* (A.W. Archer) A.W. Archer from the Solomon Islands (Archer 2007).

Thalloloma pontalense is very similar to *T. anguinum* (Mont.) Trevis., but differs in the shape of the lirellae, which are not very elongated, the presence of stictic acid, and the absence of lichexanthone. *Thalloloma pontalense* also has much wider ascomata, being 0.3–0.4 mm wide, whereas *T. anguinum* has lirellae 0.15–0.2 mm wide, exactly half the width, which in *Graphidaceae* is a significant difference. In addition, *Thalloloma pontalense* has a conspicuous thalline margin, extending 100 µm above the hymenium, whereas the thalline margin in *T. anguinum* is only present laterally, not extending beyond the level of the hymenium and excipulum.

Thalloloma pontalense is morphologically similar to a species found in Costa Rica, namely “*Thalloloma chroodiscooides*” (Sipman 2008). However, the later species has smaller ascospores, up to 26 µm long, and it lacks lichen compounds.

Thalloloma deplanatum (Nyl.) Staiger is also similar to *T. pontalense*, showing the same shape of ascomata and size of ascospores, but in *T. deplanatum* the thalline margin is less conspicuous, the excipulum has a double margin and the ascospores have only transverse septa.

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to Dr. Marcela Cáceres and Dr. Alan W. Archer for reviewing the manuscript of this paper. They also thank Prof. Nasser K. Hammad for the Latin diagnosis and to CAPES (Coordenadoria de Aperfeiçoamento do Pessoal do Ensino Superior) for granting a Mastership to Dal-Forno.

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