

Zeitschrift: Mycologia Helvetica
Herausgeber: Swiss Mycological Society
Band: 6 (1994)
Heft: 1

Artikel: Genetic approach in Fusarium genus concept
Autor: Logrieco, A. / Bottalico, A.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-1036331>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 10.08.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Genetic approach in *Fusarium* genus concept

A. Logrieco¹ and A. Bottalico²

¹Istituto Tossine e Micotossine da Parassiti Vegetali del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, 70126 Bari, Italy;

²Dipartimento di Patologia Vegetale dell'Università degli studi, 70126, Bari, Italy.

In examining of the generic concepts in mycology, it appear useful to consider the biological evolutionary process among taxa, resulting from heritable change made possible by mutation and natural selection. The anamorphic *Fusarium* genus has been classified traditionally according to various morphological characteristics, but it sometimes presents some limitations such as the subjective interpretation. Moreover, the absence of teleomorphic state in some taxa and the fact that some strains can mutate or degenerate in axenic culture can lead to further difficulties for a correct taxonomic placement. Most of the morpho-classification systems consider the *Fusarium* genus subdivised in several sections solely on the basis of anamorph characters (Wollenweber & Reinking, 1935; Booth, 1971; Gerlach & Nirenberg, 1982; Nelson et al., 1983).

If the *Fusarium* taxonomist aim, besides a morpho-taxonomic identification, has also been to classify the taxa from relationship point of view (phylogeny), we are only partially agree. The fact that some sections may include taxa with different teleomorphic state is not obvious. A attempt on the sectional relationships within the genus *Fusarium*, basing on morphological features, has been made by Booth (1971), but also in this case no perfect correlation exist between sectional relationships and the respective teleomorphic state. In addition, both the subdivision of the anamorph genus *Fusarium* into three distinct teleomorph genera (*Gibberella*, *Calonectria* and *Nectria*) and the fact that *Calonectria* and *Nectria* include species belonging also to different anamorphic genera (e.g. *Cylindrocarpon*, *Tubercularia*, *Dendrodochium*) (Subramanian, 1983) led us to suspect the taxonomic validity of the anamorphic nomenclature. In fact, just little morphological differences it is possible to distinguish between *Fusarium* section *Martiella* and *Cylindrocarpon* genus (Domsch et al., 1980), both belonging to *Neetria* teleomorphie genus. On the other hand, the characteristic fusiform conidia do not necessary represent a related link among *Fusarium* taxa. At this regard, teleomorphic (Müller, 1977) and genetic (Guadet et al.,

1989) studies agree into remove *Fusarium nivale* (Fr.) Ces. from the anamorph genus *Fusarium* and reassign it to *Microdochium* (Samuels and Hallet, 1983) corresponding to the teleomorphic genus *Monographella*. These results have also been confirmed by genetical and toxigenic study of a *Microdochium nivale* (Fries) Samuel & Hallett strain NRRL-3289 (Logrieco et al. 1991b). The molecular biological studies led us to clarify the evolutionary lines in/among each fungal group (phenetic tree), since they are mostly independent from personal interpretation.

Recently, the genetical analysis, with particular reference to molecular biological studies (e.g. sequence comparison of ribosomal RNAs or DNA, variability of the mitochondrial DNA, DNA/DNA hybridization), have proved to be helpful in mycology, including *Fusarium* genus [e.g. taxonomic placement of atypical strain (Logrieco et al., 1990b), in understanding the phylogenetic relationship among fungal taxa (Ellis, 1988; Guadet et al., 1989; Logrieco et al. unpublished), also in relation with their secondary metabolites (Logrieco et al., 1991a)]. Sequence comparisons of large (25S) subunit ribosomal RNA among species in *Fusarium* section *Sporotrichiella* (*F. poae* (Peck) Wollenw., *F. tricinctum* (Corda) Sacc., *F. sporotrichioides* Sherb., *F. chlamydosporum* Wollenw. & Reiking) showed a positive correlation between phylogeny based on rRNA sequence and secondary metabolites biochemical data of these species. *Fusarium poae* and *F. sporotrichioides* were the most closely related phylogenetically in accordance with their common ability to produce trichothecenes (Thrane, 1989; Logrieco et al., 1990a). The phylogenetic studies by ribosomal RNA relatedness appear to offer a mean for assessing affinities also above the species level, in *Fusarium* genus. Ribosomal RNA is among the most highly conserved genes known, and its sequence is potential source of information for inferring patterns of evolutionary relationships among taxa. Interpreting rRNA data in relationship to taxonomic level depends greatly upon the level of intraspecific/generic rRNA sequence variation. Dover (1982) used the term molecular drive for the phenomenon of nucleotide sequence identity among the multiple copies of ribosomal RNA in individual organisms and discussed the mechanisms which maintain sequence homogeneity among populations of species.

In anamorphic *Fusarium* genus, the sequence comparison of a select region from large subunit ribosomal RNA (25 S-635) (Logrieco et al., 1991a) showed that the most of *Fusarium* species clustered into main three groups, corresponding to the teleomorphic genera (*Gibberella*, *Calonectria*, *Nectria*) (Guadet et al., 1989; Logrieco et al., unpublished).

Finally, can the molecular techniques to be useful in the taxonomic placement (in the evolutionary line) of taxa without a perfect state? In case of their phylogenetic placement has still value to maintain the anamorphic *Fusarium* name? In our preliminary calibration studies the genetic relatedness among *F. graminearum* (Group I) Schwabe [teleomorphic state *Gibberella zae* (Schw.) Petch.] *F. crookwellense* (Burgess, Nelson and Toussoun) and *F. culmorum* (W. G. Smith) (both of them without teleomorphic state), showed no base change in large-subunit ribosomal RNA (25S-635) sequence comparison and high nuclear DNA relatedness (> 75%). These findings indicate that the three taxa represents variants of a single taxon (teleomorphic species *Gibberella zea*) (Logrieco et al., unpublished).

REFERENCES

- Booth C. (1971). The Genus *Fusarium*. Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, Surrey, England.
- Domsch K. H., W. Gams & T.-H. Anderson. (1980). Compendium of soil fungi. Vol. 1, Academic Press, London.
- Dover G. A. (1982). Molecular drive a cohesive mode of species evolution. *Nature* 299: 11 - 117.
- Ellis J. J. (1988). Section *Liseola* of *Fusarium*. *Mycologia* 80: 225-258.
- Gerlach W. & Nirenberg H. (1982). The genus *Fusarium*: a pictorial atlas. Vol. 209. Paul Parey, Berlin.
- Guadet J., J. Julien, J. F. Lafay & Y. Brygoo. (1989). Phylogeny of some *Fusarium* species, as determined by large-subunit rRNA sequence comparison. *Mol. Biol. Evol.* 6(3): 227-242.
- Logrieco A., J. Chelkowski, A. Bottalico & A. Visconti. (1990a). Further data on specific trichothecene production by *Fusarium* sect. *Sporotrichiella* strains. *Mycol. Res.* 94: 587-589.
- Logrieco A., S. W. Peterson, G. Mulè & A. Bottalico. (1990b). Molecular genetic criteria for the identification of an atypical *Fusarium* strain, P. 199. In Abstract of Paper of the 4th International Mycological Congress, Regensburg.
- Logrieco A., Peterson S.W. & A. Bottalico. (1991a). Phylogenetic affinities of the species in *Fusarium* section *Sporotrichiella*. *Esp. Mycol.*
- Logrieco A., R. Vesonder, S. Peterson & A. Bottalico. (1991b). Reexamination of the taxonomic disposition of and deoxynivalenol production by *Fusarium nivale* NRRL-3289. *Mycologia* 83: 367-370. *Mycologia*, (in press).

- Müller E. (1977). Die systematische Stellung des "Schneeschimmels" Rev. Mycol. 41: 129-134.
- Nelson P. E., T. A. Toussoun & W. F. O. Marasas. (1983) *Fusarium* species: An Illustrated Manual for Identification. Pennsylvania State Univ. Press, University Park.
- Samuels G. J. & I. C. Hallet (1983). *Microdochium stoveri* and *Monographella stoveri*: new combinations for *Fusarium stoveri* and *Micronectriella stoveri*. Trans. Br. Mycol. Soc. 81: 473-483.
- Subramanian C. V. (1983). Hyphomycetes, Taxonomy and Biology. Academic Press, New York.
- Thrane U. (1989). *Fusarium* species and their specific profiles of secondary metabolites. In *Fusarium Mycotoxins, Taxonomy and Pathogenicity* (J. Chelkowski, Ed.) pp 199-225. Elsevier, Amsterdam.
- Wollenweber H. W. & O. A. Reinking. (1935). Die Fusarien, Ihre Beschreibung, Schadwirkung und Bekämpfung. Paul Parey, Berlin.