ACROCLADIUM, A SYNONYM OF PERICONIELLA

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Petrak (*1949*) described the genus *Acrocladium* (type species: *A. andinum* Petrak) from unidentified leaves of a liane, collected by H. Sydow in 1937 in Ecuador. He compared the genus with *Stachybotrys* Corda and *Sterigmatobotrys* Oudem. The type specimen (W) was available for study.

The leaves bear several fungi with hemispherical-discoid fructifications, including *Asterinella puiggarii* (Speg.) Theiss., *Chaetothyrina musarum* (Speg.) Theiss., and *Asterina* cf. *guaranitica* Speg. The fungus described as *Acrocladium andinum* is hardly visible with the naked eye, but can easily be recognized under a stereo microscope. Petrak (*1949*) considered this fungus to be a leaf parasite, but it may be also a mycoparasite.

The conidiophores arise from light brown, apparently superficial, delicate hyphae and are erect, 160–220 µm long, 4–8 µm broad at the base, slightly tapering towards the branched tip, rather thick-walled, septate and dark brown. The conidiogenous cells which form an apical penicillus, are formed in lateral and terminal position on the upper cells of the conidiophore, elongate sympodially, are cylindrical, light brown, 15–30 µm long, 2–3.5 µm broad and become covered with numerous, small, slightly protuberant scars with age. The conidia are ellipsoidal, 1-celled, subhyaline, smooth, 5–8 × 2.5–3.5 µm and show a rather distinct scar at the base.

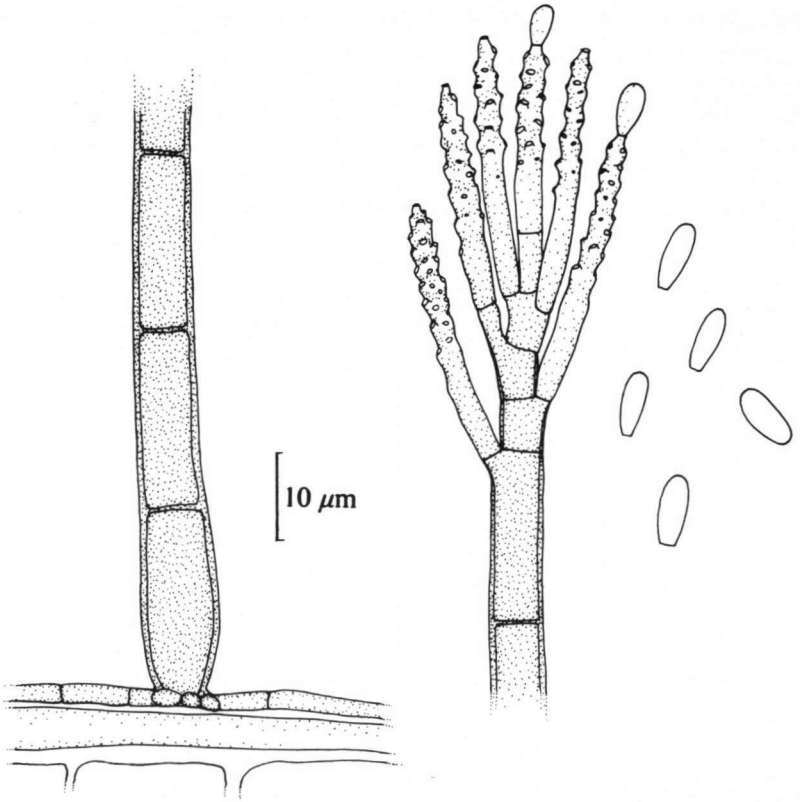

Fig. 1. *Periconiella andina*, base and apical part of a conidiophore and conidia.

This fungus fits the genus *Periconiella* Sacc. sensu Ellis (*1967*) in all respects and is reclassified as **Periconiella andina** (Petrak) v. Arx, *comb. nov.* (basionym: *Acrocladium andinum* Petrak *in* Sydowia **3**: 263. 1949)—Fig. 1. The conidiogenous cells and conidia correspond to those of *P. musae* M. B. Ellis and *P. anisophylleae* M. B. Ellis in size, shape, and structure. In the former species the conidiogenous cells are usually integrated in lateral branches, in the latter they are mostly discrete and form an apical penicillus.

Most of the other species have much larger, often catenate, septate and/or ornamented conidia, which retain more distinct scars on release. All species of the genus *Periconiella* have been collected on leaves of mainly tropical plants.

Ellis (*1967, 1971*) placed the genera *Acrodesmis* H. Sydow and *Ramichloridium* Stahel (*nom. nud.*) in synonymy with *Periconiella; Acrocladium* is here added to this list of synonyms. De Hoog (*1977*) reintroduced *Ramichloridium* with *Chloridium apiculatum* Miller & *al.* as type. He treated 12 species, among which *Periconiella musae* M. B. Ellis and some species, classified by Ellis (*1976*) in *Veronaea*. *Veronaea musae* M. B. Ellis was placed in synonymy with *Periconiella musae* (syn. *Ramichloridium musae*) being a mononematous,

mainly cultural state of the latter. The genus *Veronaea* sensu Ellis is heterogeneous, though classification of the leaf-inhabiting species with mononematous conidiophores in either *Periconiella* or *Ramichloridium* is a matter of taste. *Ramichloridium* Hoog contains mononematous taxa with an integrated conidiogenous cell and taxa with branched conidiophores; the condiogenous cells may have scars or denticles, and the conidia may secede rhexolytically or schizolytically or may be even catenate, Some species of *Periconiella* also are characterized by catenate conidia and in this respect are similar to *Cladosporium*.

References

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