POLLEN MORPHOLOGY OF SOME EUROPEAN ROSACEAE

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Abstract

In this preliminary investigation attention was paid to pollen morphology of West-European species of the Rosaceae. Some new terms were used like fastigium, endocingulus etc. The terminology of Iversen and Troels-Smith has been followed in addition to improvements by Erdtman. A key is given to the types and subtypes for the use of pollen analytical investigators. *Sanguisorba officinalis* appeared to be always 3-colporate and not 6-colporate.

1. INTRODUCTION

It is well known that different types of pollen grains are found in the *Rosaceae*. FAEGRI and IVERSEN (1964) mention some in their key to the N.W. European pollen types, e.g. *Crataegus* type, *Potentilla* type, *Geum* type. From pollen analytical investigations there appear to be more present types than the three above.

The object was to form pollen morphological types, which are easily distinguishable from each other by constant differences. These types have been worked up into a key for the use of pollen analytical investigators.

Within the types it was sometimes possible to give a key to the included genera or species. In these keys use is made of less constant and distinctive differences such as the length, the shape etc.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Flowers

Pollen grains were obtained from herbarium material at the Botanical Museum and Herbarium of Utrecht, and from freshly collected flowers. Only flowers which just bloomed or are about to bloom are useful.

2.2. Treatment of the pollen grains

Pollen grains from fresh flowers were treated with the acetolysismethod of ERDTMAN (1943). If only a little material was present and this is especially so in the case of herbarium material, the micro-method described by PUNT (1962) has been used.

2.3. Preservation

For the preservation of the grains the paraffin-method with the improvements by PUNT (1962) has been used, viz. the use of a granule of clay to support the cover-glass. This prevents large grains from being compressed.

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2.4. Microscopes

The pollen grains have been studied with a Leitz Ortholux binocular (obj. pl. apo öl 100/1.32, oc. periplan $10 \times$) and an Olympus phasecontrast microscope. This microscope was found very useful in detecting the configuration of the structural elements.

2.5. Drawings

The pollen grains have been drawn in such a manner that in one drawing as many characters as possible are to be seen at the same time. Each drawing therefore is midway between scheme and a photographical reproduction. The pollen grains have been drawn to scale, without a camera lucida or other drawing instruments.

The enlargment is $2000 \times \text{except Mespilus viz. } 1000 \times \text{.}$

2.6. Photographs

Microphotographs were made with a Leitz Orthomatcamera and Ortholux microscope apochr. obj. \times 40, \times 63 and an eyepiece \times 10.

3. Terminology

In principle the terminology of IVERSEN and TROELS-SMITH (1950) has been followed, although in addition improvements by Erdtman have been used (see also PUNT, 1962). At the same time some terms have been used, which need a new or altered description:

Aperture (FAEGRI and IVERSEN, 1950)

A thinning or missing of a part of the sexine or nexine Columellae index-C.I.

The ratio between the maximum height of the exine to the maximum height of the columellae

Costa pl. costae (FAEGRI and IVERSEN, 1950)

Thickenings of the nexine

Costae colpi: Thickened nexine below the edge of colpi Costae ENDOCINGULI: Thickened edges of the endocingulus COSTAE ENDOCOLPI: Thickened edges of the endocolpus COSTAE ENDOPORI: Thickened edges of the endoporus Costae pori: Thickened nexine below the edge of pori

Ectoaperture (VAN CAMPO, 1958)

A thinning or a missing of a part of the sexine e.g. colpus, porus Endoaperture (VAN CAMPO, 1958)

A thinning or a missing of a part of the nexine ENDOCINGULUS

Endoaperture, forming a band round the equator, of which the diameter is perpendicular to the axis of the ectoaperture. *Endocolpus* (ZAGWIJN, 1963)

Endoaperture, of which one of the axes of the aperture is perpendicular to an axis of the ectoaperture. Length: breadth > 2

Endoporus (ZAGWIJN, 1963)

Endoaperture, of which one of the axes of the aperture is perpendicular to an axis of the ectoaperture. Length: breadth > 2

Membrana granulata (ERDTMAN, 1952)

Colpus or porus membrane (= nexine) with some scattered structural elements.

Membrana nudata (ERDTMAN, 1952)

Colpus or porus membrane (= nexine) without structural elements Nexine (ERDTMAN, 1948)

The inner, non-sculptured part of the exine

Sexine (ERDTMAN, 1948)

The outer sculptured part of the exine FASTIGIUM pl. FASTIGIA (= Atrium PUNT, 1962)

Cavity, inside colporate grains, caused by the separation of the nexine and the domed sexine in the area of the endoapertures. PUNT (1962) named this an atrium. This term, however, has been used by Pflug in a publication by THOMSON and PFLUG (1953) for triporate Tertiary pollen grains. Consequently it is not advisable to use this term here.

The shapes of the pollen grains in polar and equatorial view are described according to the system of KUYL, MULLER and WATERBOLK (1955).

The system of ERDTMAN (1952), which is based on the relation between the polar axis and the equatorial axis (P:E) in equatorial view, is also used.

The length of the longest axis has been indicated in the description. This measurement, which may be either the equatorial or the polar axis, is an exact indication of the size of the pollen grain.

KEY TO THE TYPES

1	a	Pollen grain with striae	2
	b	Pollen grain without striae, that is psilate, echinate, scabrate, or only	
		with phase contrast microscope striate	7
2	а	Pollen grain operculate	ŝ.
-	ĥ	Pollen grain not operculate	4
3	ã	Pollen grain without costae colni	ē
Ŭ	ĥ	Pollen grain with costae colni Bosa gallica typ	ē
4	ຈິ	Striae indistinct intrastriate	5
	Ъ	Striae distinct extrastriate	ň
5	2	Pollen grain with costae colni	
9	ĥ	Pollen grain without costae colni	-
6	2	Pollen grain with tectum	-
U	ĥ	Pollen grain with tectum nerforatum	-
7	0	Pollen grain with tectum perioratum Mesphus typ	ö
1	a L	Pollen grain without structural elements on tectum	0
^	D	Pollen grains with structural elements on tectum	2
8	a		ä
~	b	Pollen grain not operculate	υ
ч			
	a	C.I. > 4, pollen grain with costae colpi Rosa canina typ	e
	a b	C.I. > 4, pollen grain with costae colpi Rosa canina typ C.I. < 3, pollen grain without costae colpi Sanguisorba typ	e
10	a b a	C.I. > 4, pollen grain with costae colpi Rosa canina typ C.I. < 3, pollen grain without costae colpi Sanguisorba typ C.I. < 3, columellae in intercolpium higher than those at the poles	e
10	a b a	C.I. > 4, pollen grain with costae colpi Rosa canina typ C.I. < 3 , pollen grain without costae colpi Sanguisorba typ C.I. < 3 , columellae in intercolpium higher than those at the poles Alchemilla typ	e

4. Results

4.1. General

The pollen grains of the studied *Rosaceae* show a number of types, which can be distinguished clearly from each other. However, they all represent variations on the same theme.

They all are tricolporate. That both tricolpate and stephanocolporate pollen grains occur, can be looked upon as a normal variation.

The shape in equatorial view varies from prolate (P: E = 1.33-2) to suboblate (P: E = 0.88-0.75) and is mostly oval to rhomboidal. In some cases the shape is rectangular to compressed oval (Alchemilla type). The shape in polar view is mostly circular to semiangular, sometimes intersubangular (Alchemilla type) or subangular (Mespilus type). The colpi are usually narrow, sometimes broad (Sanguisorba officinalis subtype). In some types the colpi are accompanied by costae colpi (Alchemilla type, Rosa canina type, Rosa gallica type, Rubus idaeus type). Opercula can be present (Potentilla type, Sanguisorba type, Rosa canina type, Rosa gallica type). The polar area index (P.A.I.) ranges from 0.1 to 0.55. Costae endocolpi or endopori are sometimes present (Rosa rubiginosa subtype, Geum subtype).

The Rosaceae studied are all striate, both extra- and intrastriate. The last structure is mostly only visible with the phase-contrast microscope. The striae on the tectum are formed by some strong, more or less fused, capita. Columellae, however, do not occur in striae. Mostly all the grains have a tectum, except Mespilus, which has a tectum perforatum.

On the tectum structural elements of different shape may be found such as scabrae (*Filipendula* type), echinae, verrucae or gemmae (*Rubus chamaemorus* type). All these grains have a fastigium, which is also found in other tricolporate grains e.g. Sedum, Solanum, Fabaceae p.p., Apiaceae p.p.

4.2. Description and discussion

Crataegus type (FAEGRI AND IVERSEN, 1964) **Figs. 1, 2** Diagnosis: tricolporate; fastigiate; psilate; intrastriate, mostly only visible with phase contrast; C.I. > 4; subprolate-suboblate; eq. view: oval-rhomboidal; pol. view: circular-semiangular; max. length: $23-42 \mu$.

Absent: operculum; costae colpi.

Species studied

Crataegus monogyna Jacq. Crataegus oxyacantha L. Aronia melanocarpa (Michx.) Ell. Sorbus aria (L.) Crantz Sorbus aucuparia L.

33912B, [U]; Gulperberg 071886B, [U]; Utrecht Wassenaar 115592B, [U] Utrecht



Fig. 1. Crataegus monogyna Jacq.



Fig. 2. Sorbus aucuparia L.

Mespilus type

Diagnosis: tricolporate (tricolpate); fastigiate; striate; tectum perforatum; C.I. > 4; oblate spheroidal-prolate spheroidal; eq. view: oval-rhomboidal; pol. view: circular-subangular.

Absent: operculum; costae colpi.

Species studied

Mespilus germanica L. 011015 [U]; Onderste Bos (Epen) P.A.I.: 0.2–0.3: maximum length: $42-49 \mu$.

Rubus idaeus type

Diagnosis: tricolporate; fastigiate; psilate; intrastriate, mostly only visible with phase contrast; costae colpi; C.I. > 4; prolate spheroidalsubprolate; eq. view: oval rhomboidal; pol. view: circular. Absent: operculum.

KEY TO THE SUBTYPES

1 a Pollen grain with costae endocolpi. . . . Rosa rubiginosa subtype 1 b Pollen grain without costae endocolpi Rubus idaeus subtype

Rubus idaeus subtype

Diagnosis: max. length: 24-40 µ; P.A.I.: 0.1-0.35; Species studied

Figs. 4, 5

Fig. 3

Plate IA



Fig. 5. Rosa arvensis Huds

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Rubus idaeus L. Rubus saxatilis L. Rubus adornatus P. J. Mueller ex Wirtg. Rosa arvensis Huds. Rosa rugosa Thunb.

Bunde J. Th de Smidt, Lapland N. 21 093013B [U] Onderste Bos (Epen) Utrecht

Rosa rubiginosa subtype

Plate IB; Fig. 6



Fig. 6. Rosa rubiginosa L.

Diagnosis: max. length 28-32 µ; P.A.I.: 0.25-0.35 Species studied Rosa rubiginosa L. Utrecht

Rubus chamaemorus type

Plate IE; Fig. 7



Fig. 7. Rubus chamaemorus L.

Diagnosis: tricolporate; fastigiate; echinate, verrucate, or gemmate; intrastriate, only visible with phase contrast; costae colpi; C.I. > 4; spheroidal-prolate spheroidal; eq. view: oval; pol. view: circular. Absent: operculum.

Species studied

Rubus chamaemorus L. Diagnosis: $m: e = 5\mu$; max. length: $35-41\mu$; P.A.I.: 0.25-0.32; structural elements: max. length 1.7μ , diameter 3.3μ .

Rosa canina type

Plate IC; Fig. 8



Fig. 8. Rosa canina L.

Diagnosis: tricolporate; fastigiate; psilate; intrastriate mostly only visible with phase contrast; costae colpi; costae endocolpi; oper-culate; C.I. > 4; suboblate-oblate spheroidal; eq. view: oval-rhomboidal; pol. view: circular; max. length: 25-32µ; P.A.I.: 0.17-0.30.
Species studied

Rosa canina L.

Bunde



Plate ID; Fig. 9



Fig. 9. Rosa gallica L.

Diagnosis: tricolporate; fastigiate; striate; costae colpi; operculate; C.I. > 4; oblate spheroidal-prolate spheroidal; eq. view: ovalrhomboidal; pol. view: circular; max. length: 27-34; P.A.I.: 0.25-0.35.

Species studied Rosa gallica L.

Yougoslavia

Potentilla type (FAEGRI and IVERSEN, 1964)

Diagnosis: tricolporate (stephanocolporate); fastigiate; striate; operculate; C.I. > 4; prolate spheroidal-prolate; eq. view: oval-

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rhomboidal; pol. view: circular-semiangular-interhexagonal-subangular; P.A.I.: 0.1-0.4. Absent: costae colpi.

KEY TO THE SUBTYPES

1	a	Tectum at the pole and in the intercolpium of uniform breadth 2
	b	Tectum at the pole twice as broad as in the intercolpium
0		
z	a	Striae anastomosing Fragaria vesca subtype
~	b	Striae not anastomosing
3	а	Operculum protruding from the fastigium
		Comarum palustre subtypes
	b	Operculum not protruding from the fastigium

Potentilla sterilis subtype

Plate IF; Fig. 10



Fig. 10. Potentilla sterilis (L.) Garcke

Diagnosis: m: e = 0.5-0.7; max. length: $22-32\mu$; eq. view: ovalrhomboidal; pol. view: circular-semiangular. Species studied

Potentilla sterilis (L.) Garcke Potentilla recta L. Potentilla intermedia L. Sötenich (Germany) 42002A [U] Sötenich (Germany)

Comarum palustre subtype

Plate IG; Fig. 11

Diagnosis: $m: e = \pm 0.5$ max. length $21-27\mu$; eq. view: oval; pol. view: circular-interhexagonal.

Species studied

Comarum palustre L.

Loosdrecht; Terschelling; Maarsseveen

Discussion

Following SCOPOLI (1772), BAILLON (1869), BENTHAM and HOOKER (1865), FOCKE (1888) and WOLF (1908) transmit the genus *Comarum* to the genus *Potentilla*: *Potentilla palustris* (L) Scop.

This is perfectly justified by the pollen morphological results.



Fig. 11. Comarum palustre L.

Fragaria vesca subtype

Fig. 12



Fig. 12. Fragaria vesca L.

KEY TO THE SPECIES

1	а	Long	gest ax	is 18–25	μ;	er	ıdc	со	lp	us;	; 11	1:	e :	=	0.2	2-4	0.4	ŀ	•			•				2
	b	Long	gest ax	is 25-31	μ;	er	ıdc	po	ru	s;	m	: (: =	= ().5	-0	.7	5.								3
2	a	Pol.	view:	interhex	ago	ona	1	٠.													F	ras	zai	ria	ve	sca
	b	Pol.	view:	circular																Po	ote	nti	ĺla	r	ept	ans
3	a	Pol.	view:	subangu	ılar														F	ra	ga	ria	1 1	no	sch	ata
	b	Pol.	view:	circular				-	-		-				P	ot	er	ti	lla	t	ab	eri	120	em	ont	ani
								-														-				

Species studied

Fragaria moschata Duch. Fragaria vesca L. Potentilla tabernaemontani Aschrs. Potentilla reptans L. 105106B [U] Utrecht Bemelerberg Rhenen; Maarn Potentilla anserina subtype



Fig. 13. Potentilla erecta (L.) Räuschel

Diagnosis: $m: e = \pm 0.5$; longest axis 22-38 μ ; eq. view: oval; pol. view: circular.

Species studied Potentilla anserina L. Potentilla argentea L. Potentilla anglica Laich Potentilla erecta (L.) Räuschel Potentilla norvegica L.

Westbroek; Utrecht Hilversum; Dortenbachtal (Germany) 149472B, [U] Ginkelse heide; Maarn Hilversum; 09644B [U]

Geum type (FAEGRI AND IVERSEN, 1964)

Diagnosis: tricolporate; fastigiate; striate; C.I. > 4; suboblateprolate; eq. view: oval-rhomboidal; pol. view: circular-semiangular.

Absent: operculum; costae colpi.

Key to the subtypes Costae endocolpi present Geum subtype Costae endocolpi not present Dryas subtype

Geum subtype

Plate IIB; Figs. 14, 15



Fig. 14. Geum urbanum L.

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Fig. 15. Agrimonia eupatoria L.

Diagnosis: prolate spheroidal-prolate; eq. view: oval; pol. view: circular-semiangular; P.A.I.: 0.25-0.45.

KEY TO THE GENERA AND SPECIES

1	a	longest	axis	22-	33	μ					•	•			•		•	•							•	•		
	b	longest	axis	35-	60	μ							4		•		•	•								•		
2	a	longest	axis	22-	28	μ;	m:	3	-3	.5	μ		•	•		•	•	•	•		•		Ge	u	m	u	·b	anum
	b	longest	axis	28-	33	μ	m:	2	.2-	-2.	8	u							•			•		(Ge	um	1	rivale
3	a	longest	axis	35-	50	μ;	th	ic	kn	ess	e	xi	ne	2	.8	μ	•	•	•	A	gı	riı	mo	ni	a	eu	p	atoria
	b	longest	axis	50–	60	μ;	th	nic	kn	ess	6	exi	ne	: 3	.5	μ	•	•	•	٠	A	gı	rin	no	ni	a	od	lorata

Species studied

Geum urbanum L.	Utrecht								
Geum rivale L.	Apeldoorn								
Agrimonia eupatoria L.	Terziet								
Agrimonia odorata L.	Th. H. ten Berge 526								

Dryas subtype

Plate IIC; Figs. 16, 17



Fig. 16. Dryas octopetala L.



Fig. 17. Prunus avium L.

Diagnosis; suboblate-prolate spheroidal; eq. view: oval-rhomboidal; pol. view: circular; longest axis; 24-46µ; P.A.I.: 0.13-0.35.

Species studied

Dryas octopetala L.

Physocarpus opulifolius (L.) Maxim. Prunus avium L. Prunus cerasus L. var. austera L. Prunus persica (L.) Batsch. Prunus padus L. Prunus serotina Ehrl. Leg. Stud. Biol. in itinere Helv. 109, 1913 Culture Beek, Montferland Utrecht Utrecht cult. Utrecht Utrecht

Discussion

ERDTMAN, BERGLUND, and PRAGLOWSKI (1961), FAEGRI and IVERSEN (1964) and ERDTMAN (1943) give a description of Dryas octopetala. They all state that the longest axis is less than 25μ . The grains studied here, however, have a length of $30-36\mu$. It is known though, that the size of pollen grains can be depend on polyploidy (ERDTMAN 1963).

BÖCHER and LARSEN (1955) found in the Alps near Col du Pillon tetraploid forms of *Dryas octopetala*: 2n = 36, beside diploid plants: 2n = 18. Different authors like R. Czapik, in a publication of SKA-LINSKA *et al.* (1955) and LÖVE and LÖVE (1956) have found in the North only diploid plants: 2n = 18.



A¹ Rosa arvensis A^{2,3} Rubus idaeus B Rosa rubiginosa C Rosa canina D^{1,2} Rosa gallica E Rubus chamaemorus F^{1,2} Potentilla sterilis G^{1,2} Comarum palustre PLATE I

Facing p. 302



A^{1,2} Potentilla anserina B Geum urbanum C¹ Prunus cerasus C^{2,3} Dryas octopetala D^{1,2} Alchemilla glabra E^{1,2} Aphanes arvensis PLATE II



A^{1,2,3} Sanguisorba minor B^{1,2,3,4} Sanguisorba officinalis C^{1,2} Filipendula ulmaria PLATE III

Probably this is the reason that the axis is shorter in those grains previously examined.

A pollen morphological and cytological study is necessary to come to any conclusion.

Alchemilla type



Fig. 18. Alchemilla glabra Neygens

Diagnosis: Tricolporate, sometimes tricolpate; fastigiate; Intrastriate, only visible with phase contrast; C.I. < 3; endoporus \pm circular; columellae in intercolpium higher than those at the poles; subprolate-prolate; eq. view: rectangular-compressed oval; pol. view: intersubangular.

Absent: operculum

KEY TO THE SUBTYPES

Pollen grain with costae colpi; colpus membrane nudate . . . Pollen grain without costae colpi; colpus membrane granulate . Aphanes subtype

Alchemilla subtype

Species studied Alchemilla glabra Neygenf.

Aphanes subtype

Plate IIE

Plate IID

Species studied Aphanes arvensis L.

Gulperberg; Elslo

Reeuwijkse plassen

Diagnosis: Longest axis: 24-28µ; P.A.I.: 0.31-0.36.

Sanguisorba type

Diagnosis: tricolporate; fastigiate; psilate; intrastriate; mostly only visible with phasecontrast; operculate; C.I. < 3; oblate spheroidalprolate spheroidal; eq. view oval-rhomboidal; pol. view circular Absent: costae colpi

KEY TO THE SUBTYPES

1 a Maximum width of the colpus < maximum width of the intercolpium at equatorial view; pollen grain oblate spheroidal . Sanguisorba minor subtype

b Maximum width of the colpus > maximum width of the intercolpium at equatorial view; pollen grain prolate spheroidal .







Species studied

Sanguisorba minor Scop.

Pietersberg; Eyserbossen

Diagnosis: Longest axis: 32-39µ; P.A.I.: 0.41-0.55; end of the colpus distinct; acute.

Sanguisorba officinalis subtype

Plate IIIB; Fig. 20



Fig. 20. Sanguisorba officinalis L.

Species studied

Sanguisorba officinalis L.

Hardenberg, along the Vecht

Diagnosis: Longest axis: 28-32µ P.A.I.: 0.15-0.25.

Discussion

Pollen grains of Sanguisorba officinalis have been described mostly as 6-colporate (FAEGRI and IVERSEN (1964), ERDTMAN, BERGLUND and PRAGLOWSKI (1961) and others). ERDTMAN and NORDBORG (1961) and ERDTMAN (1963) indicate that tetraploid plants 2n = 56 only produce 6-colporate forms and diploid plants 2n = 28 both 6-colporate as 3-colborate forms.

In aperture pollen grains there are two different positions of the ectoaperture possible viz. situated opposite one other or not so. When the ectoapertures are opposite then the pollen grain has an even number of ectoapertures. When the ectoapertures are not opposite then the pollen grain has an odd number of ectoapertures.

This can be seen best in equatorial view when one of the ectoapertures is turned to the investigator as completely as possible.

The above mentioned condition does not apply to periporate, pericolpate and pericolporate pollen grains.

Studying pollen grains of *Sanguisorba* in such a manner, it is evident that the ectoapertures are not situated opposite one another. So the pollen grain must be tricolporate.

Also the situation of the 6 "colpi" in the pollen grain is strange viz. colpi at varying distances from each other. There are broad and narrow "intercolpia". When the two colpi with the broadest "intercolpium" are regarded as the colpus, there results a situation in which the ectoapertures are situated on uniform distance from each other, as is the case in all the remaining Rosaceous pollen grains studied. The end of the colpus is sometimes distinct. Than it is easy to see that the pollen grain possess 3 broad ectoapertures and 3 small intercolpia. It is clear now that, what was originally described as the colpus, is the nexine membrane between the edge of the colpus and the large operculum.

Filipendula type



Plate IIIC; Fig. 21

Fig. 21. Filipendula ulmaria (L.) Maxim.

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Diagnosis: tricolporate; fastigiate; scabrate; intrastriate, only visible with phase contrast; C.I. > 4; prolate spheroidal-subprolate;

eq. view: oval-rhomboidal; pol. view: circular.

Absent: operculum; costae colpi.

Species studied

Terziet

Diagnosis: max. length: $17-21\mu$; P.A.I.: 0.3-0.55.

Filipendula vulgaris Moench

Filipendula ulmaria (L.) Maxim.

cult. Cantonspark

Diagnosis: max. length: $15-21\mu$; P.A.I.: 0.25-0.45.

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