

First record of *Ramularia didymarioides* in Australia

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Abstract. *Ramularia didymarioides* was found on potted plants of *Silene* cv. Rollies Favourite in a nursery in Melbourne. This is the first record of *R. didymarioides* outside of Europe and central Asia. All affected plants were destroyed.

In November 2007, potted plants of *Silene* cv. Rollies Favourite were submitted to the DPI Victoria Crop Health Services unit. The plants were 4 months old and had necrotic leaf lesions covering ~10% of the leaf surface (Fig. 1). All of the 200 plants in the grower's nursery (located in an outer Melbourne suburb) were affected.

Microscopic examination revealed a species of *Ramularia* sporulating from the leaf lesions. It was identified as

R. didymarioides according to Braun (1998). Conidiophores were erect, filiform, generally flexuous to geniculate, hyaline, simple, mostly $80\text{--}125 \times 4\text{--}5 \mu\text{m}$ (Fig. 2). Conidia were solitary, 0–2 septate, generally cylindrical, hyaline, roughened, often



Fig. 1. Leaf symptoms on *Silene* cv. Rollies Favourite.



Fig. 2. Conidiophores of *Ramularia didymarioides* (VPRI 41304). Scale bar = 50 μm .

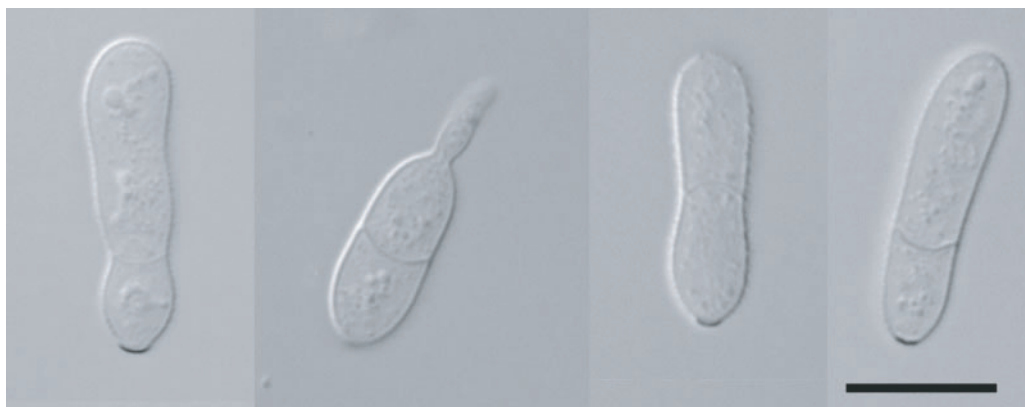


Fig. 3. Conidia of *Ramularia didymarioides* (VPRI 41304). Scale bar = 10 μm .

slightly constricted in the middle or at the septa, mostly $16\text{--}27 \times 5.5\text{--}7.5 \mu\text{m}$, with thickened and darkened hila (Fig. 3). A specimen has been deposited in the DPI Victoria Plant Pathology Herbarium as VPRI 41304. A duplicate has been lodged in DAR.

Ramularia didymarioides occurs in Europe and central Asia (Braun 1998). It has been recorded on the following genera in the Caryophyllaceae: *Lychnis*, *Silene* (including *Melandrium*) and *Viscaria* (Braun 1998). The Victorian plants were imported from Holland in 2006 as cuttings. No propagation material has been

on-sold from the affected plants, which have subsequently been destroyed.

Reference

Braun U (1998) 'A monograph of *Cercospora*, *Ramularia* and allied genera (phytopathogenic hyphomycetes). Vol. 2.' (IWH-Verlag: München, Germany)

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