

Diversity of Microfungi on Para rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*)

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Purpose: Para rubber substrates have been reported to be a rich source and favorable host for fungi including saprobes, pathogens and/or endophytes. Fungi on Para rubber have been described and classified based on morphological characteristics; however, the understanding of fungal diversity and specificity in Thailand is poorly known, with limited information about taxonomic placement of fungi. Therefore, it is important to examine many taxa to resolve and clarify their systematic positions. The aim of this investigation is to study the micro fungal diversity on Para rubber collected from different areas of Thailand.

Methods: Samples of Para rubber were collected during October 2016 - September 2018. Which includes branches, twigs, petioles, and leaves. Additional molecular data were acquired for more accurate identification of fungi. Phylogenetic analyses of multigene sequence data coupled with morphology were further used to clarify their systematic positions.

Results and conclusions: From 174 isolates of fungi, one new genera, two new combination, and seven new species were described. The discovery of seven novel species indicated that many micro fungi on Para rubber are waiting to be discovered.