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Taxonomy and multi-locus phylogeny of cylindrocarpon-like species associated with diseased roots of grapevine and other fruit and nut crops in California

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Key words: black foot disease Nectriaceae new taxa systematics Abstract: Black foot disease is a common and destructive root disease of grapevine caused by a multitude of cylindrocarponlike fungi in many viticultural areas of the world. This study identified 12 cylindrocarpon-like fungal species across five genera associated with black foot disease of grapevine and other diverse root diseases of fruit and nut crops in the Central Valley Region of California. Morphological observations paired with multi-locus sequence typing of four loci, internal transcribed spacer region of nuclear rDNA ITS1–5.8S–ITS2 (ITS), beta-tubulin (*TUB2*), translation elongation factor 1-alpha (*TEF1*), and histone (*HIS*), revealed 10 previously described species; *Campylocarpon fasciculare, Dactylonectria alcacerensis, D. ecuadoriensis, D. macrodidyma, D. novozelandica, D. torresensis, D. valentina, llyonectria capensis, I. liriodendri, I. robusta,* and two new species, *Neonectria californica sp. nov.*, and *Thelonectria aurea sp. nov.* Phylogenetic analyses of the ITS+*TUB2*+*TEF1* combined dataset, a commonly employed dataset used to identify filamentous ascomycete fungi, was unable to assign some species, with significant support, in the genus *Dactylonectria,* while all other species in other genera were confidently identified. The *HIS* marker was essential either singly or in conjunction with the aforementioned genes for accurate identification of most *Dactylonectria* species. Results from isolations of diseased plant tissues revealed potential new host associations for almost all fungi recovered in this study. This work is the basis for future studies on the epidemiology and biology of these important and destructive plant pathogens.

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INTRODUCTION

Fungal genera with cylindrocarpon-like asexual morphs are cosmopolitan and may be isolated from soils as saprobes colonizing dead or dying plant material, as latent pathogens or endophytes, or as pathogens causing cankers and root rots of herbaceous and woody plant hosts (Samuels & Brayford 1994, Seifert et al. 2003, Halleen et al. 2004, 2006, Chaverri et al. 2011, Agustí-Brisach & Armengol 2013, Carlucci et al. 2017). The asexual genus Cylindrocarpon (Sordariomycetes, Hypocreales, Nectriaceae) was described in 1913 with Cylindrocarpon cylindroides as the type species and has been linked to the sexual genus Neonectria (Rossman et al. 1999, Mantiri et al. 2001), which is very closely related to Corinectria (González & Chaverri 2017). Booth (1966) first subdivided the genus Cylindrocarpon into four informal morphological groups based on the shape and septation of macroconidia and the presence/absence of microconidia and chlamydospores in culture. Based on Booth's classification, Rossman et al. (1999) transferred all reference strains of all Nectria groups with cylindrocarpon-like asexual morphs into the genus Neonectria. Three of Booth's groups correlate strongly with the three clades proposed by Mantiri et al. (2001) based on phylogenetic analysis of mitochondrial 18S rDNA sequences.

Asexual morphs in the *Neonectria coccinea/galligena*-group (clade I in Mantiri *et al.* 2001) comprise Booth's *Cylindrocarpon*

group 1 (including the type specimen for the genus *Neonectria*; *Neonectria ramulariae*): macroconidia are 3–7(–9)-septate, cylindrical, generally straight, sometimes curved towards rounded ends, cultures generally produce microconidia but lack chlamydospores, with a few exceptions. Asexual morphs in the *Neonectria mammoidea/veuillotiana*-group (clade II in Mantiri *et al.* 2001) were placed in Booth's *Cylindrocarpon* group 2: macroconidia are (3–)5–7(–9)-septate, fusiform to slightly curved with rounded ends, cultures generally lack microconidia and chlamydospores. Asexual morphs in the *Neonectria radicicola*-group (clade III in Mantiri *et al.* 2001) comprised Booth's *Cylindrocarpon* group 3 which are characterized by 1–3-septate macroconidia, cylindrical, straight to slightly curved, apical cell bent slightly to one side, and cultures typically produce microconidia and chlamydospores.

Subsequent molecular studies have shown that *Neonectria/ Cylindrocarpon* species clustered into a monophyletic group based on phylogenetic analyses of the mitochondrial 18S ribosomal subunit (Mantiri *et al.* 2001, Brayford *et al.* 2004). Both sets of authors indicated that distinct subclades existed within *Neonectria*, likely representing a generic complex, however neither described any new genera at that time. Halleen *et al.* (2004) noticed great cultural and morphological variation among cylindrocarpon-like isolates collected from symptomatic and asymptomatic grapevine rootstocks in nurseries and vineyards in Australia, France, New Zealand, and South Africa. Phylogenetic

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analyses of three loci (ITS, 28S ribosomal large subunit, and *TUB2*) segregated cylindrocarpon-like asexual morphs from grapevines that produced curved macroconidia that are (1-)3-5(-6)-septate (average four septa), with microconidia and chlamydospores rarely produced in culture, as a unique lineage distant to *Neonectria*, which they described as *Campylocarpon*, based on *C. fasciculare*. Additionally, that study provided the first phylogenetic evidence that cylindrocarpon-like fungi were not monophyletic. This was the first formal taxonomic revision of divergent cylindrocarpon-like asexual morphs from the genus *Cylindrocarpon*.

A detailed study on the taxonomy and phylogenetic position of cylindrocarpon-like asexual morphs was performed by Chaverri et al. (2011), whereby they described three new genera: (i) Ilyonectria (clade III Mantiri et al. 2001/Booth's group 3): Ilyonectria species are generally characterized as producing cylindrical to straight to slightly bent macroconidia with 1-3 septa (rarely more than three septa), with rounded ends and a prominent basal hilum, microconidia are ellipsoidal with a prominent basal hilum, and abundant chlamydospores either singly or in chains; (ii) Rugonectria (clade II Mantiri et al. 2001/Booth's group 2): Rugonectria species are characterized as producing fusarium-like macroconidia that are (3–)5–7(–9)-septate and tapered towards the ends, microconidia are ovoid to cylindrical and no chlamydospores; (iii) Thelonectria (clade II Mantiri et al. 2001/Booth's group 2): Thelonectria species typically produce fusiform to curved macroconidia that are (3–)5–7(–9)-septate (average five septa), often broadest at upper third, with rounded apical cells and flattened or rounded basal cells, microconidia and chlamydospores are rarely produced in culture. Chaverri et al. (2011) also established Neonectria s. str. (clade I Mantiri et al. 2001/Booth's group 1), which typically produces cylindrical, generally straight, sometimes with slight curve towards the ends that are 3–7(–9)-septate (average five septa), with rounded ends and an inconspicuous hilum, microconidia are ellipsoidal to oblong, and chlamydospores may be produced by some species. These warranted revisions have helped to stabilize the taxonomy and to highlight the expansive biological and phylogenetic diversity within cylindrocarpon-like fungi.

More recently, phylogenetic studies have revealed Ilyonectria and Thelonectria to be paraphyletic (Cabral et al. 2012a, b, Salgado-Salazar et al. 2016). Lombard et al. (2014) resolved the paraphyletic nature of Ilyonectria by establishing the genus Dactylonectria. Dactylonectria differs morphologically from other cylindrocarpon-like fungi by producing abundant macro- and microconidia with chlamydospores found rarely in culture. Macroconidia of Dactylonectria are cylindrical, straight to slightly curved with 1-4 septa with the apical cell or apex typically bent slightly to one side, microconidia are ellipsoidal to ovoid, aseptate to 1-septate. Salgado-Salazar et al. (2016) established Cinnamomeonectria, Macronectria, and Tumenectria as segregate genera based on phylogenetic and morphological data resolving the paraphyly of Thelonectria. In 2017, Aiello et al. described the monotypic genus, Pleiocarpon, which was the sister taxon to Thelonectria.

To date at least 24 species of cylindrocarpon-like fungi have been associated with black foot disease of grapevine (Lombard *et al.* 2014, Úrbez-Torres *et al.* 2014) throughout the main viticultural regions of the world including Europe (Rego *et al.* 2000, Alániz *et al.* 2007), the near East (Mohammadi *et al.* 2009), Oceania (Halleen *et al.* 2004, Whitelaw-Weckert *et al.* 2007), South Africa (Halleen *et al.* 2004), and North and South America (Petit & Gubler 2005, Auger *et al.* 2007, Petit *et al.* 2011, Úrbez-Torres *et al.* 2014). Symptoms of the disease include grapevine roots with necrotic root crowns, reduced root biomass, root rot, sunken root lesions, xylem necrosis, vascular streaking, and general decline of the canopy. Infected vines are often stunted with short internodes and leaves that appear scorched by water stress, eventually the entire vine is killed (Scheck *et al.* 1998), resulting in costly economic losses due to removal and replanting of new vines. In many instances, black foot disease of grapevine is found in plants suffering stress conditions in the root system including poor planting (J rooting) and poor soil conditions such as poor water drainage (Petit & Gubler 2013).

Beside the rather well-characterized black foot disease of grapevine, only a few additional root diseases of woody crops have been attributed to cylindrocarpon-like fungi and the biology and diversity of these fungi within fruit and nut crops remain overall poorly studied. A few species have been associated with root rot symptoms of avocado (Persea americana) in Italy (Vitale et al. 2012), apple (Malus domestica) in Portugal (Cabral et al. 2012a) and South Africa (Tewoldemedhin et al. 2011), kiwifruit (Actinidia chienensis) in Turkey (Erper et al. 2013), loquat (Eriobotrya japonica) in Spain (Agustí-Brisach et al. 2016), olive (Olea europeae) in California (Úrbez-Torres et al. 2012), and walnut (Juglans regia) in Spain (Mora-Sala et al. 2018). Additionally, species of Ilyonectria have been reported to cause cold storage rot of Prunus spp. in California (Marek et al. 2013) and Canada (Traquair & White 1992), raising concerns among nurseries and growers. Synergistic interactions of cylindrocarpon-like fungi with nematodes and other fungi coupled with predisposing abiotic factors have been associated with Prunus replant disease in California (Bhat et al. 2011).

The aims of the present study were to elucidate the diversity and identity of cylindrocarpon-like species associated with black foot disease of grapevine and root rot symptoms in other perennial crops including almond, cherry, kiwi, olive, peach, pistachio, and walnut in California. Morphological observations coupled with multi-locus sequence typing will allow for accurate species diagnosis and potentially unveil new fungal species and host associations in the most productive agroecosystems within the Central Valley of California.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant sampling and fungal isolation

Between 2014 and 2018, rotted roots from declining grapevines and various fruit and nut trees throughout the Central Valley Region of California were sampled for disease diagnosis. Common symptoms included poor growth and eventually wilting and collapse of entire plants. Roots of declining plants showed necrotic lesions, dark vascular streaking as well as root rot characterized by black discoloration of the root cortex, epidermis, and vascular tissues. Main perennial crops that were surveyed included almond (Prunus dulcis), cherry (Prunus avium), grape (Vitis vinifera), kiwi (Actinidia deliciosa), peach (Prunus persica), pistachio (Pistacia vera), olive (Olea europaea), and walnut (Juglans regia). On average, 2-3 symptomatic plants per vineyard and orchard were sampled. Fungal isolates were recovered from 10–12 necrotic root pieces (4 × 4 × 2 mm) per sample that were surface disinfested in 0.6 % sodium hypochlorite for 30 s, rinsed in two serial baths of sterile deionized water for 30 s, and plated on 2 % potato dextrose agar (PDA, Difco, Detroit, Michigan, USA.) plates amended with tetracycline (1 mg L⁻¹). Petri dishes were incubated at 25 °C in the dark for up to 14 d. Fifty-

	Geographic origin
ession numbers.	Host
lates used in this study and GenBank acc	Isolateª
Table 1. Fungal isol	Snecies

					GenBank Acc	ession No. ^b	
Species	lsolate ^a	Host	Geographic origin	ITS	TEF1	TUB2	SIH
Campylocarpon fasciculare	CBS 112613	Vitis vinifera	South Africa	AY677301	JF735691	AY677221	I
	KARE1889	Vitis vinifera	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400278	MK409922	MK409845	I
	KARE1890	Vitis vinifera	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400279	MK409923	MK409846	I
	KARE1891	Vitis vinifera	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400280	MK409924	MK409847	I
	KARE1892	Vitis vinifera	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400281	MK409925	MK409848	I
	KARE1893	Vitis vinifera	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400282	MK409926	MK409849	I
	KARE1894	Vitis vinifera	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400283	MK409927	MK409850	I
	KARE1895	Vitis vinifera	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400284	MK409928	MK409851	I
Campylocarpon pseudofasciculare	CBS 112679	Vitis vinifera	South Africa	AY677306	JF735692	AY677214	I
Dactylonectria alcacerensis	CBS 129087	Vitis vinifera	Portugal	JF735333	JF735819	AM419111	JF735630
	Cy133	Vitis vinifera	Spain	JF735331	JF735817	JF735459	JF735628
	Cy134	Vitis vinifera	Spain	JF735332	JF735818	JF735629	JF735629
	KARE413	Vitis vinifera	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400304	MK409948	MK409871	MK409906
	KARE417	Vitis vinifera	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400305	MK409949	MK409872	MK409907
	KARE418	Vitis vinifera	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400306	MK409950	MK409873	MK409908
Dactylonectria amazonica	MUCL55430	Rhizoplane <i>, Piper</i> sp.	Ecuador	MF683706	MF683664	MF683643	MF683685
	MUCL55433	Root, <i>Piper</i> sp.	Ecuador	MF683707	MF683665	MF683644	MF683686
Dactylonectria anthuriicola	CBS 129085	Anthurium sp.	The Netherlands	JF735302	JF735768	JF735430	I
Dactylonectria ecuadoriensis	MUCL55424	Rhizoplane <i>, Piper</i> sp.	Ecuador	MF683704	MF683662	MF683641	MF683683
	MUCL55205	Root, <i>Piper</i> sp.	Ecuador	MF683700	MF683658	MF683637	MF683679
	MUCL55226	Root, <i>Cyathea lasiosora</i>	Ecuador	MF683703	MF683661	MF683640	MF683682
	MUCL55432	Rhizoplane, <i>Socratea exorrhiza</i>	Ecuador	MF683702	MF683660	MF683639	MF683681
	MUCL55431	Rhizoplane, <i>Carludovica palmata</i>	Ecuador	MF683701	MF683659	MF683638	MF683680
	MUCL55425	Rhizoplane <i>, Piper</i> sp.	Ecuador	MF683705	MF683663	MF683642	MF683684
	KARE2108	Olea europaea	San Joaquin Co., CA, USA	MK400316	MK409960	MK409883	MK409918
	KARE2110	Olea europaea	San Joaquin Co., CA, USA	MK400317	MK409961	MK409884	MK409919
	KARE2113	Olea europaea	San Joaquin Co., CA, USA	MK400318	MK409962	MK409885	MK409920
	KARE2114	Olea europaea	San Joaquin Co., CA, USA	MK400319	MK409963	MK409886	MK409921
Dactylonectria estremocencis	CBS 129085	Vitis vinifera	Portugal	JF735320	JF735806	JF735448	JF735617
	CPC 13539	Picea glauca	Canada	JF735330	JF735816	JF735458	JF735627
Dactylonectria hispanica	CBS 142827	Pinus halepensis	Spain	KY676882	KY676870	КҮ676876	КҮ676864
	Cy228	Ficus sp.	Portugal	JF735301	JF735767	JF735429	JF735578
Dactylonectria macrodidyma	CBS 112615	Vitis vinifera	South Africa	AY677284	JF735833	AY677229	JF735647

					GenBank Acc	ession No. ^b	
Species	lsolate ^a	Host	Geographic origin	ITS	TEF1	TUB2	SIH
	Cy123	Vitis vinifera	CA, USA	JF735341	JF735837	JF735470	JF735648
	Cy139	<i>Vitis</i> sp.	Portugal	AM419071	JF735839	AM419106	JF735650
	KARE423	Prunus dulcis	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400300	MK409944	MK409867	MK409902
	KARE2109	Olea europaea	San Joaquin Co., CA, USA	MK400301	MK409945	MK409868	MK409903
	KARE2039	Vitis vinifera	Stanislaus Co., CA, USA	MK400302	MK409946	MK409869	MK409904
	KARE2127	Pistacia vera	Tulare Co., CA, USA	MK400303	MK409947	MK409870	MK409905
Dactylonectria novozelandica	CBS 113552	Vitis vinifera	New Zealand	JF735334	JF735822	AY677237	JF735633
	Cy115	Vitis vinifera	CA, USA	JF735335	JF735823	JF735460	JF735634
	Cy116	Vitis vinifera	CA, USA	AJ875322	JF735824	JF735461	JF735635
	KARE192	Prunus avium	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400307	MK409951	MK409874	MK409909
	KARE474	Prunus avium	Kern Co., CA, USA	MK400308	MK409952	MK409875	MK409910
	KARE2036	Vitis vinifera	Stanislaus Co., CA, USA	MK400309	MK409953	MK409876	MK409911
	KARE2037	Vitis vinifera	Stanislaus Co., CA, USA	MK400310	MK409954	MK409877	MK409912
	KARE2038	Vitis vinifera	Stanislaus Co., CA, USA	MK400311	MK409955	MK409878	MK409913
	KARE2125	Pistacia vera	Tulare Co., CA, USA	MK400312	MK409956	MK409879	MK409914
	KARE2126	Pistacia vera	Tulare Co., CA, USA	MK400313	MK409957	MK409880	MK409915
Dactylonectria polyphaga	MUCL55209	Root, <i>Costus</i> sp.	Ecuador	MF683689	MF683647	MF683626	MF683668
	MUCL54802	Root, <i>Asplenium</i> sp.	Ecuador	MF683698	MF683656	MF683635	MF683677
Dactylonectria torresensis	CBS 129086	Vitis vinifera	Portugal	JF735362	JF735870	JF735492	JF735681
	Cy118	Vitis vinifera	CA, USA	JF735354	JF735859	JF735483	JF735670
	Cy120	Vitis vinifera	CA, USA	AJ875320	JF735860	AJ875320	JF735671
	KARE1173	Pistacia vera	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400298	MK409942	MK409865	MK409900
	KARE1174	Pistacia vera	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400299	MK409943	MK409866	MK409901
Dactylonectria valentina	CBS 142826	llex aquifolium	Spain	KY676881	КҮ676869	KY676875	KY676863
	KARE2111	Olea europaea	San Joaquin Co., CA, USA	MK400314	MK409958	MK409881	MK409916
	KARE2112	Olea europaea	San Joaquin Co., CA, USA	MK400315	MK409959	MK409882	MK409917
Dactylonectria vitis	CBS 129082	Vitis vinifera	Portugal	JF735303	JF735769	JF735431	JF735580
Ilyonectria capensis	CBS 132815	Protea sp.	South Africa	JX231151	JX231119	JX231103	Ι
	KARE1920	Prunus persica	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400330	MK409974	MK409897	I
	KARE1921	Prunus persica	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400331	MK409975	MK409898	I
Ilyonectria crassa	CBS 139.30	Lilium sp.	The Netherlands	JF735275	JF735723	JF735393	I
Ilyonectria destuctans	CBS 264.65	Cyclamen persicum	Sweden	AY677273	JF735695	AY677256	I
Ilyonectria europaea	CBS 129078	Vitis vinifera	Portugal	JF735294	JF735756	JF735421	Ι
Ilyonectria liriodendri	CBS 110.81	Liriodendron tulipifera	Yolo Co., CA, USA	DQ178163	JF735696	DQ178170	I

Table 1. (Continued).



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					GenBank Acc	ession No. ^b	
Species	lsolate ^a	Host	Geographic origin	ITS	TEF1	TUB2	SIH
	KARE84	Prunus avium	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400322	MK409966	MK409889	I
	KARE85	Prunus avium	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400323	MK409967	MK409890	Ι
	KARE88	Prunus avium	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400324	MK409968	MK409891	I
	KARE97	Prunus avium	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400325	MK409969	MK409892	Ι
	KARE1206	Actinidia deliciosa	Tulare Co., CA, USA	MK400326	MK409970	MK409893	Ι
	KARE1207	Actinidia deliciosa	Tulare Co., CA, USA	MK400327	MK409971	MK409894	I
	KARE2046	Juglans regia	Tulare Co., CA, USA	MK400328	MK409972	MK409895	I
	KARE2049	Juglans regia	Tulare Co., CA, USA	MK400329	MK409973	MK409896	Ι
Ilyonectria mors-panacis	CBS 306.35	Panax quinquefolium	Canada	JF735288	JF735746	JF735414	Ι
Ilyonectria palmarum	CBS 135754	Howea fosteriana	Italy	HF937431	HF922614	HF922608	Ι
Ilyonectria robusta	CBS 308.35	Panax quinquefolium	Canada	JF735264	JF735707	JF735377	Ι
	KARE1740	Olea europaea	Glenn Co., CA, USA	MK400320	MK409964	MK409887	Ι
	KARE1741	Olea europaea	Glenn Co., CA, USA	MK400321	MK409965	MK409888	Ι
Ilyonectria venezuelensis	CBS 102032	Unknown	Venezuela	AM419059	JF735760	AY677255	Ι
Nectria balansae	CBS 125119	Living woody vine	French Guiana	HM484857	HM484848	HM484874	I
Nectria cinnabarina	A.R. 4477	Aesculus sp.	France	HM484548	HM484527	HM484606	Ι
	KARE1838/CBS						
Neonectria californica	145774	Pistacia vera	Madera Co., CA, USA	MK400332	MK409976	MK409899	I
Neonectria ditissima	CBS 226.31	Fagus sylvatica	Fresno Co., CA, USA	JF735309	JF735783	DQ789869	I
Neonectria lugdunensis	CBS 125485	Populus fremontii	USA	KM231762	KM231887	KM232019	I
Neonectria major	CBS 240.29	Alnus incana	Norway	JF735308	JF735782	DQ789872	I
Neonectria neomacrospora	CBS 324.61	Abies concolor	Netherlands	JF735312	HM364352	DQ789875	I
Neonectria obtusispora	CBS 183.36	Solanum tuberosum	Germany	AM419061	JF735796	AM419085	I
Neonectria ramulariae	CBS 151.29	Malus sylvestris	England	JF735313	JF735791	JF735438	I
Thelonectria acrotyla	G.J.S. 90-171	Unknown	Venezuela	JQ403329	JQ394751	JQ394720	I
Thelonectria amamiensis	MAFF 239819	Pinus luchuensis	Japan	JQ403337	KJ022348	JQ394727	I
	MAFF 239820	Pinus luchuensis	Japan	JQ403338	KJ022349	JQ394720	I
Thelonectria aurea	KARE1830/CBS 145584	Olea europaea	Glenn Co., CA, USA	MK400285	MK409929	MK409852	I
	KARE98	Prunus avium	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400286	MK409930	MK409853	I
	KARE1831	Olea europaea	Glenn Co., CA, USA	MK400287	MK409931	MK409854	Ι
	KARE1832	Olea europaea	Glenn Co., CA, USA	MK400288	MK409932	MK409855	I
	KARE1833	Olea europaea	Glenn Co., CA, USA	MK400289	MK409933	MK409856	Ι
	KARE1834	Vitis vinifera	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400290	MK409934	MK409857	I

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five isolates with morphological characters of cylindrocarpon-like anamorphs, namely colonies with slow to medium growth with more-or-less consistent margin expansion, yellow to brown in color, were recovered in culture, from symptomatic plants in the Central Valley. All isolates were subsequently hyphal-tip purified to fresh PDA dishes for phylogenetic and morphological analyses. All isolates collected for this study are detailed in Table 1 and are maintained in the culture collection of the Department of Plant Pathology at Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Parlier, University of California, Davis, USA.

Phylogenetic analyses

Total genomic DNA was isolated from mycelium scraped with a sterile scalpel from the surface of 14-d-old PDA cultures using the DNeasy Plant Kit (Qiagen, Valencia, California), following the manufacturer's instructions. All PCR reactions utilized AccuPower[™] PCR Premix (Bioneer, Alameda, California), following the manufacturer's instructions. Amplification of ribosomal DNA (rDNA), including the intervening internal transcribed spacer regions and 5.8S rDNA (ITS1-5.8S-ITS2), using the primer set ITS1 and ITS4 followed the protocol of White et al. (1990). Amplification of translation elongation factor 1- α (TEF1) fragments utilized the primer set CYLEF-1 and CYLEF-R2 (Crous et al. 2004, Cabral et al. 2012a), histone gene (HIS) fragments utilized CYLH3F and CYLH3R (Crous et al. 2004) (only for Dactylonectria isolates), and beta-tubulin (TUB2) utilized primers T1 and CYLTUB1R (O'Donnell & Ciglek 1997, Crous et al. 2004), with a slightly modified PCR program for TEF1 and TUB2: [initial denaturation (94 °C, 5 min) followed by 35 cycles of denaturation (94 °C, 30 s), annealing (58 °C for TEF1 and 62 °C for TUB2, 30 s), extension (72 °C, 60 s), and a final extension (72 °C, 10 min)]. PCR products were visualized on a 1.5 % agarose gel (120 V for 25 min) stained with GelRed[®] (Biotium, Fremont, California), following the manufacturer's instructions, to confirm presence and size of amplicons, purified via Exonuclease I and recombinant Shrimp Alkaline Phosphatase (Affymetrix, Santa Clara, California), and sequenced bidirectionally on an ABI 3730 Capillary Electrophoresis Genetic Analyzer (College of Biological Sciences Sequencing Facility, University of California, Davis).

Forward and reverse nucleotide sequences were assembled, proofread,

'GenBank accessions in **bold** were produced in this study.

					GenBank Acc	ession No. ^b	
Species	Isolate ^a	Host	Geographic origin	ITS	TEF1	TUB2	HIS
	KARE1835	Vitis vinifera	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400291	MK409935	MK409858	I
	KARE1836	Vitis vinifera	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400292	MK409936	MK409859	I
	KARE1837	Vitis vinifera	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400293	MK409937	MK409860	Ι
	KARE1839	Pistacia vera	Madera Co., CA, USA	MK400294	MK409938	MK409861	Ι
	KARE1840	Pistacia vera	Madera Co., CA, USA	MK400295	MK409939	MK409862	Ι
	KARE1841	Pistacia vera	Madera Co., CA, USA	MK400296	MK409940	MK409863	Ι
	KARE1923	Prunus persica	Fresno Co., CA, USA	MK400297	MK409941	MK409864	Ι
Thelonectria blackeriella	BF142	Vitis vinifera	Italy	KX778711	I	KX778702	Ι
Thelonectria diademata	A.R. 4765	Unknown	Argentina	NR_137784	JQ394736	JQ394700	I
Thelonectria gongylodes	G.J.S. 04-171	Acer sp.	Tennessee, USA	JQ403318	JQ394744	JQ394710	Ι
Thelonectria nodosa	G.J.S. 04-155	Thuja canadiensis	Tennessee, USA	JQ403317	JQ394743	JQ394709	Ι
Thelonectria olida	CBS 215.67	Asparagus officinalis	Germany	KJ021982	I	KM232024	Ι
Thelonectria stemmata	С.Т.К. 71-19	Unknown	Jamaica	JQ403312	JQ394739	JQ394704	Ι
Thelonectria torulosa	A.R. 4764	Unknown	Argentina	JQ403309	KJ022389	JQ394701	Ι
Thelonectria trachosa	CBS 112467	Bark of conifer	Scotland	KF529842	KF569860	KF569869	I
Thelonectria truncata	G.J.S. 04-357	Unknown	Tennessee, USA	JQ403319	JQ394745	KJ022324	Ι
	MAFF241521	Unknown	Japan	JQ403339	KJ022325	JQ394757	Ι
Thelonectria veuillotiana	G.J.S. 92-24	Fagus sylvatica	France	JQ403335	JQ394755	JQ394725	Ι
	CBS 132341	Eucalyptus sp.	Azores Island	JQ403305	JQ394734	JQ394698	Ι
^a lsolates in bold represent ex-type speci	imens.						





Fig. 1. One of 100 equally most parsimonious trees generated from maximum parsimony analysis of the four-gene (ITS+*TEF1*+*TUB2*+*HIS*) combined dataset. Numbers in front and after the slash represent parsimony and likelihood bootstrap values from 1 000 replicates, respectively. Values represented by an asterisk were less than 70 % for the bootstrap analyses. The scale bar indicates the number of nucleotide changes.



Fig. 1. (Continued).

and edited in Sequencher v. 5 (Gene Codes Corporation, Ann Arbor, Michigan) and deposited in GenBank (Table 1). Homologous sequences with high similarity from type isolates and non-type isolates (n = 31 and n = 32, respectively; Table 1) were included for phylogenetic reference utilizing the BLASTn function in NCBI including the curated database TrunkDiseaseID.org (Lawrence et al. 2017). Multiple sequence alignments were performed in MEGA v. 6 (Tamura et al. 2013) and manually adjusted where necessary in Mesquite v. 3.10 (Maddison & Maddison 2016). Alignments were submitted to TreeBASE under accession number S22859. Phylogenetic analyses were performed for each individual locus, for four different three-gene combinations (ITS+TEF1+TUB2; ITS+TEF1+HIS; ITS+TUB2+HIS; and TEF1+TUB2+HIS) and a four-gene (ITS+TEF1+TUB2+HIS) concatenated dataset. Each dataset was analyzed using two different optimality search criteria, maximum parsimony (MP) and maximum likelihood (ML) in PAUP v. 4.0b162 and GARLI v. 0.951 (Swofford

2003, Zwickl et al. 2006), respectively. For MP analyses, heuristic searches with 1 000 random sequence additions were implemented with the Tree-Bisection-Reconnection algorithm, gaps were treated as missing data. Bootstrap analyses with 1 000 replicates using a heuristic search with simple sequence addition were used to produce majorityrule consensus trees to estimate branch support. For ML analyses, MEGA was used to infer a model of nucleotide substitution for each dataset, using the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC). ML analyses were conducted according to the best fit model of nucleotide substitution using default parameters in GARLI. Branch stability was determined by 1 000 bootstrap replicates. Sequences of Nectria cinnabarina isolate A.R. 4477 and N. balansae isolate CBS 125119 served as the outgroup taxa in all analyses except for the analyses of HIS where Dactylonectria estremocensis isolates CBS 129085 and CPC 13539 served as the outgroup taxon.

Morphology

Mycelial plugs (5-mm-diam) were taken from the margin of selected, actively growing cultures based on phylogenetic results and transferred to triplicate 90-mm-diam Petri dishes containing 2 % PDA and incubated at room temperature (24 +/- 1 °C) under natural photoperiod in April 2018 for up to 21 d. Radial growth was measured on day 7 and 14 by taking two measurements perpendicular to each other. Assessments of colony color (Rayner 1970) and morphology were made on day 14. Conidiophores (n = 20), macro- and microconidial dimensions (n = 30), phialides (n = 20), and chlamydospores (n = 20) were measured at 400 × and 1 000 × magnification from approximately 10-d-old synthetic low-nutrient agar (SNA; Nirenberg 1976) cultures, incubated as above, by excising a 1 cm³ SNA cube and placing on a glass microscope slide followed by placing a glass coverslip (no stain was applied, thus the native pigments of each fungal species was preserved) and observed with a Leica DM500B microscope (Leica microsystems CMS GmbH, Wetzlar, Germany). Morphological measurements are represented by the mean in the center with minima and maxima rounded to the nearest half micron in parentheses, respectively. The optimal temperature for growth was determined using strains KARE1838 and KARE1830. A 5-mm mycelial plug taken from the margin of an actively growing colony was placed in the center of triplicate 90-mm-diam PDA Petri dishes. Cultures were incubated at temperatures of 10-30 °C in 5 °C increments in the dark and radial growth was measured as above.

RESULTS

Phylogenetic analyses

For delimiting the taxonomy of cylindrocarpon-like fungi, 118 strains were included in the alignment. The alignment parameters and unique site patterns of the different gene regions, gene combinations, and phylogenetic methods analyzed are presented in Table 2. The clade support values for genus/ species identifications based on the different gene regions, gene combinations, and phylogenetic methods are plotted in a heat map in Table 3. The ITS, TEF1, and TUB2 individual phylogenies displayed low to moderate resolution of species boundaries within the genera Dactylonectria, Neonectria, and Thelonectria (Table 3), while TEF1 and TUB2 confidently identified Campylocarpon fasciculare and Ilyonectria capensis, I. liriodendri, and I. robusta. The HIS phylogeny strongly to moderately (\geq 84 % / \geq 78 %, MP and ML bootstrap supports, respectively) supported all species in Dactylonectria, with the exception of D. ecuadoriensis (<70 % / < 70 %) (Table 3). The analysis of the four different threegene dataset combinations yielded varying levels of support for Dactylonectria species. The ITS+TEF1+HIS and TEF1+TUB2+HIS datasets produced the strongest levels of support (\geq 88 % / \geq 87 %) for six Dactylonectria species including four members of the former 'macrodidyma' species-complex (D. alcacerensis, D. macrodidyma, D. novozelandica, and D. torresensis) and two species that are closely related to D. vitis (D. ecuadoriensis and D. valentina). Furthermore, the clade supports from the four-gene analyses (ITS+TEF1+TUB2+HIS; Fig. 1) did not differ as compared to the aforementioned two three-gene analyses (ITS+TEF1+HIS and TEF1+TUB2+HIS; Table 3). The analysis of the datasets ITS+TEF1+TUB2 and ITS+TUB2+HIS provided variable support for four Dactylonectria species in the 'macrodidyma' speciescomplex and for the closely related species D. ecuadoriensis and D. valentina (Table 3). The commonly employed ITS+TEF1+TUB2 dataset was able to confidently identify (100 % / 100 %) three Ilyonectria species (I. capensis (two isolates), I. liriodendri (eight isolates), and I. robusta (two isolates), a monotypic lineage that clusters in Neonectria, with no apparent type or non-type association, close to N. neomacrospora CBS 324.61, the ex-type specimens of N. major CBS 240.29 and N. ditissima CBS 226.31. This lineage thus represented a potentially novel phylogenetic species, hereinafter identified as Neonectria californica sp. nov. (Table 3; Fig. 1), and 13 isolates clustered in the recently proposed genus Thelonectria with no apparent type or nontype association. Therefore these 13 isolates are hereinafter identified as Thelonectria aurea sp. nov. (Table 3; Fig. 1), which is closely related to T. truncata. The use of only two genes in any combination failed to properly support T. aurea (Table 3), however the three-gene combination as mentioned above robustly separates the two lineages (Fig. 1). The commonly employed dataset ITS+TEF1+TUB2 was unable to robustly identify several species in Dactylonectria, providing only low to moderate support for, D. ecuadoriensis (74 % / 72 %), D. macrodidyma (76 % / 82 %), D. valentina (77 %/78 %), and no support for *D. novozelandica* (< 70 % / < 70 %), (Table 3).

Morphology

Morphological characteristics of the fungal isolates recovered were similar to the descriptions of species in the genera *Campylocarpon, Dactylonectria, Ilyonectria, Neonectria*, and *Thelonectria* (Halleen *et al.* 2004, Chaverri *et al.* 2011, Lombard *et al.* 2014). Morphological characteristics of novel taxa are reported in the taxonomy section below.

Despite several media tested (PDA and SNA), no isolates molecularly identified as *Campylocarpon fasciculare* produced spores. *Campylocarpon fasciculare* isolate KARE1890 colonies after 14 d average 43.8 mm on PDA. Center of colony on PDA is livid red to dark vinaceous, with copious aerial hyphae, the inner margin is pale luteous and the outer margin is smooth, submerged, and white to off-white. Fascicles of hyphae extend from the colony center (Fig. 2).

Dactylonectria alcacerensis isolate KARE417 colonies after 14 d average 73.5 mm on PDA, fast-growing with mostly even margin expansion (Fig. 3A). Center of colony on PDA is buff with felty appearance with radial furrows and small sporulation centers and a flat, submerged, and violet colored inner margin and coral colored outer margin. Conidiophores (60.5-)88(-124.5) μ m, simple or complex, long, slender, arising from aerial hyphae, also as sporodochial pulvinate domes of slimy masses on SNA. Phialides (27.5–)51(–88.5) µm long, wider at the base (1.5-)2.5(-3.5) µm and tapering toward the apex (1.5-)1.5(-2) μ m. Macroconidia cylindrical, straight to slightly bent toward the apical cell, 1-3-septate (Fig. 3B); 1-septate conidia (9.5-)14.5(-29.1) × (2.5–)3.5(–5.5) μ m; 2-septate conidia (23–)29(–34) × (3.5–)5(–6.5) μm; 3-septate conidia (28.5–)36.5(–44) × (4–)5.5(– 8) μm. Microconidia elliptical (5.5–)8.5(–15.5) × (2.5–)3(–4) μm. Chlamydospores not observed on SNA.

Dactylonectria ecuadoriensis isolate KARE2113 colonies after 14 d average 72.2 mm on PDA, fast-growing with even margin expansion (Fig. 3C). Center of colony on PDA is buff with copious glaucous blue green felty aerial hyphae and a smooth, submerged, pale violet mostly entire, margin. Conidiophores

Table 2. Statistical information on phylogene	etic datasets ar	alyzed in this	study.						
		Individual ge	ne datasets			Three-gen	e datasets		Four-gene dataset
	ITS	TEF1	TUB2	нIS	ITS+ <i>TEF1</i> +TUB2	ITS+ <i>TEF1</i> +HISª	ITS+ <i>TUB2</i> +HIS ^a	TEF1+TUB2+HIS ^a	ITS+ <i>TEF1</i> +TUB2+HIS ^a
Aligned characters (gaps included)	629	795	750	541	2174	1965	1920	2086	2715
Equally most parsimonious trees retained	100	100	100	9	100	36	100	100	100
Tree length	507	946	988	175	2543	1682	1704	2185	2723
Consistency index (CI)	0.659	0.636	0.613	0.771	0.606	0.637	0.631	0.615	0.616
Retention index (RI)	0.955	0.950	0.941	0.963	0.942	0.948	0.945	0.941	0.943
Rescaled Consistency index (RC)	0.629	0.604	0.577	0.743	0.571	0.604	0.596	0.579	0.581
Constant characters	414	408	368	425	1190	1247	1207	1201	1615
Parimony-uninformative characters	30	77	59	15	166	122	104	151	181
Parsimony-informative characters	185	310	323	101	818	596	609	734	919
Nucleotide substitution model	TN93+G	Ө+ҮХН	GTR+G+I	TN93+G	Assigned accordingly	Assigned accordingly	Assigned accordingly	Assigned accordingly	Assigned accordingly
Log likelihood of most likely tree	-3291.744	-5448.788	-5518.968	-1539.751	-15443.408	-10781.305	-11019.718	-13306.448	-17539.415
^a Only includes <i>Dactylonectria</i> spp.									



Fig. 2. Culture morphology of *Campylocarpon fasciculare* (KARE1890) recovered in this study.

(27.5–)22(–82.5) µm, simple or complex, long, slender, arising from aerial hyphae, also as sporodochial pulvinate domes of slimy masses on SNA. Phialides (11.5–)25.5(–41.5) µm long, wider at the base (2–)2.5(–3.5) µm and tapering toward the apex (1.5–)2(–2.5) µm. Macroconidia cylindrical to slightly bent 1(–3)-septate (Fig. 3D); 1-septate (22.5–)25(–28.5) × (4–)5(–6.5) µm; 2-septate (24.5–)28.5(–32.5) × (4.5–)5(–5.5) µm, and 3-septate (31.5–)36(–41) × (5.5–)6.5(–7). Microconidia elliptical, not common, (5.5–)7.5(–8.5) × (2.5–)3(–4) µm. Chlamydospores not observed on SNA.

Dactylonectria macrodidyma isolate KARE423 colonies after 14 d average 46.5 mm on PDA, medium-growing with slight uneven margin expansion (Fig. 3E). Center of colony on PDA is buff with copious felty aerial hyphae and a flat honey margin, submerged, with fairly even growth. Conidiophores (51–)82(– 121) µm, simple or complex, long, slender, arising from aerial hyphae, also as sporodochial pulvinate domes of slimy masses on SNA. Phialides (26–)50.5(–85) µm long, wider at the base (1.5–)2(–2.5) µm and tapering toward the apex (1–)1.5(–2) µm. Macroconidia cylindrical 1(–3)-septate (Fig. 3F); 1-septate (8.5–) 12(–15.5) × (2–)3(–3) µm; 2–3-septate conidia uncommon. Microconidia elliptical, copious, (4–)5.5(–8) × (1.5–)2(–2.5) µm. Chlamydospores not observed on SNA.

Dactylonectria novozelandica isolate KARE474 colonies after 14 d average 62.2 mm on PDA, medium-growing with even margin expansion (Fig. 3G). Center of colony on PDA is ochreous to coral with felty aerial hyphae and amber to apricot margin, flat and submerged. Conidiophores (42–)89(–148.5) µm, arise from long, slender, aerial hyphae, also as sporodochial pulvinate domes of slimy masses on SNA. Phialides (18.5–)32(–49.5) µm, wider at the base (2–)2.5(–3) µm and tapering toward the apex (1.5–)2(–3) µm. Macroconidia cylindrical, 1–3-septate (Fig. 3H); 1-septate conidia (8–)12(–17.5) × (2–)2.5(–3.5) µm; 2-septate conidia (23–)27(–34) × (3–)4(–4.5) µm; 3-septate conidia (28.5–) 34(–46.5) × (3.5–)4.5(–6) µm. Microconidia elliptical, (7–)9.5(– 11.5) × (2–)3(–4) µm. Chlamydospores not observed on SNA.

Table 3. Clade support values plu	otted as a hea	at map for ir	ndividual and	d combined (datasets for species re	covered in this study.			
	<u> </u>	ndividual ge	ne datasets			Three-ge	ene datasets		Four-gene dataset
Taxon	ITSª	TEF1	TUB2	αSIH	ITS+ <i>TEF1</i> +TUB2	ITS+ <i>TEF1</i> +HIS ^b	ITS+ <i>TUB2</i> +HIS ^b	TEF1+TUB2+HIS ^b	ITS+ <i>TEF1</i> +TUB2+HIS ^b
Campylocarpon	100/100	95/95	99/91	I	100/99	100/100	100/100	66/66	100/99
Campylocarpon fasciculare	96/94	100/95	100/85	I	100/99	100/90	100/99	100/96	100/99
				I					
Dactylonectria	88/73	99/95	100/100	100/100	100/100	96/66	100/100	100/100	100/100
Dactylonectria alcacerensis	<70/<70	85/84	<70/<70	99/98	85/94	99/95	99/91	66/66	100/99
Dactylonectria ecuadoriensis	<70/<70	<70/<70	<70/<70	<70/<70	74/72	88/87	70/<70	91/89	91/90
Dactylonectria macrodidyma	<70/<70	<70/<70	<70/<70	96/98	76/82	99/100	66/26	99/100	99/100
Dactylonectria novozelandica	<70/<70	<70/<70	<70/<70	93/85	<70/<70	92/91	94/91	93/95	95/95
Dactylonectria torresensis	<70/<70	86/89	<70/<70	89/78	86/90	98/98	85/73	98/98	98/98
Dactylonectria valentina	<70/<70	89/89	<70/<70	84/83	77/78	98/98	73/72	92/96	95/97
llyonectria	71/<70	98/66	99/93	I	100/99	100/94	99/88	100/95	100/99
Ilyonectria capensis	72/70	100/100	98/98	I	100/100	100/100	66/66	100/100	100/100
Ilyonectria liriodendri	72/<70	98/99	99/100	I	100/100	99/100	99/100	99/100	100/100
Ilyonectria robusta	95/94	66/66	97/91	I	100/100	99/100	66/66	100/100	100/100
Neonectria	83/<70	100/100	100/99	I	100/100	100/100	100/99	100/100	100/100
Neonectria californica sp. nov.	<70/<70	83/99	<70/75	I	90/100	93/100	70/81	81/100	88/100
Thelonectria	99/91	79/72	<70/87	I	100/100	100/100	100/100	94/98	100/100
Thelonectria aurea sp. nov.	<70/<70	<70/70	70/<70	I	94/94	<70/96	100/78	97/73	94/94
^a Number to the left and to the r	ight of the sla	ash represei	nt maximum	parsimony a	ind maximum likelihoo	od bootstrap supports,	, respectively.		
^b Data for <i>Dactylonectria</i> spp. on	ly.								
								> 20 % disparity in	

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cylindrocarpon-like fungi in California, Lawrence et al.

support values

< 70 %

75-70 %

79-76 %

100-96 % 95-90 % 89-86 % 85-80 %



Fig. 3. Culture morphology and conidia of *Dactylonectria* species recovered in this study. **A–B.** *Dactylonectria alcacerensis* (KARE417). **C–D.** *Dactylonectria ecuadoriensis* (KARE2113). **E–F.** *Dactylonectria macrodidyma* (KARE423). **G–H.** *Dactylonectria novozelandica* (KARE474). **I–J.** *Dactylonectria torresensis* (KARE1173). **K–L.** *Dactylonectria valentina* (KARE2111). Scale bars = 20 µm.

Dactylonectria torresensis isolate KARE1173 colonies after 14 d average 59.7 mm on PDA, medium-growing with even margin expansion (Fig. 3I). Center of colony on PDA is ochreous to umber with copious coral to apricot aerial hyphae and luteous margin, flat and submerged. Conidiophores (58.5–) 94(–127) µm, simple or complex, long, slender, arising from aerial hyphae, also as sporodochial pulvinate domes of slimy masses on SNA. Phialides (29.5–)59(–126) µm, wider at the base (2–)2.5(–3.5) µm and tapering toward the apex (1.5–)2(–2.5) µm. Macroconidia cylindrical, (1–)3-septate (Fig. 3J); 1-septate conidia (13–)26.5(–37) × (3.5–)5(–7) µm; 2-septate conidia (21–)31.5(–35.5) × (3–)5(–6) µm; and 3-septate conidia (32.5–) 35.5(–38) × (3.5–)5(–6.5) µm. Microconidia elliptical, aseptate, (7–)10(–15) × (2–)2.5(–3.5) µm. Chlamydospores not observed on SNA.

Dactylonectria valentina isolate KARE2111 colonies after 14 d average 79.5 mm on PDA, fast-growing with even margin expansion (Fig. 3K). Center of colony on PDA is buff to honey with copious purple felty aerial hyphae with a flat and submerged flesh-colored margin. Conidiophores (34–)50.5(– 79.5) μ m, simple or complex, long, slender, arising from aerial hyphae, also as sporodochial pulvinate domes of slimy masses on SNA. Phialides (16.5–)27(–42) μ m, wider at the base (1.5–) 2.5(–3.5) μ m and tapering toward the apex (1.5–)2(–2) μ m. Macroconidia cylindrical, (1–)3-septate (Fig. 3L); 1-septate conidia (19.5–)23.5(–28) × (3.5–)4.5(–5) μ m; 2-septate conidia (24.5–)27.5(–31) × (4.5–)5(–5.5) μ m; and 3-septate conidia (25.5–)40(–39) × (4–)5(–6.5) μ m. Microconidia elliptical, aseptate, (5.5–)9.5(–14.5) × (2–)2.5(–3.5) μ m. Chlamydospores not observed on SNA.

Ilyonectria capensis isolate KARE1920 colonies after 14 d average 75.8 mm on PDA, fast-growing with uneven margin (Fig. 4A). Center of colony on PDA is honey to buff with abundant aerial hyphae and a hazel margin, slightly raised and uneven. Conidiophores (36–)70.5(–109.5) μ m, simple or complex, long, slender, arising from aerial hyphae, also as sporodochial pulvinate domes of slimy masses on SNA. Phialides (16–)24.5(–43.5) μ m, wider at the base (1.5–)2(–2.5) μ m and tapering toward the apex (1.5–)1.5(–2) μ m. Macroconidia cylindrical, straight to slightly bent toward the apical cell, 0–1(–3)-septate (Fig. 4B); 0–1-septate conidia (9.5–)12(–14) × (1.5–)2(–2.5) μ m; 2–3-septate conidia rarely observed. Microconidia



Fig. 4. Culture morphology and conidia of *Ilyonectria* species recovered in this study. **A–B.** *Ilyonectria* capensis (KARE1920). **C–D.** *Ilyonectria liriodendri* (KARE1207). **E–F.** *Ilyonectria robusta* (KARE1741). Scale bars: B = 30 μm; D and F = 20 μm.

predominating, as eptate, ovoid to ellipsoid, (4.5–)6(–9.5) × (2–) 2.5(–4) µm. Chlamy dospores not observed on SNA.

Ilyonectria liriodendri isolate KARE1207 colonies after 14 d average 50.3 mm on PDA, medium-growing with some unevenness (Fig. 4C). Center of colony on PDA is buff with felty aerial hyphae and buff margin, flat and submerged. Conidiophores (29–)63(–88) µm, long, slender, mainly from aerial hyphae, and as sporodochial pulvinate domes of slimy masses on SNA. Phialides $(13.5-)21.5(-32.5) \mu m$, wider at the base (1.5-)2(-3) µm and tapering at the apex (1-)1.5(-2) µm. Macroconidia cylindrical, straight to slightly bent toward the apical cell, 1-3-septate (Fig. 4D); 1-septate conidia (11.5-)17 $(-24.5) \times (2-)3(-3.5) \mu$ m; 2-septate conidia $(11.5-)15.5(-20.5) \times$ (2.5–)3(–4.5) µm; 3-septate conidia (13–)18.5(–24) × (2.5–)3.5(– 4.5) μm. Microconidia abundant, aseptate, elliptical, (4.5–)6(– 8) \times (1.5–)2(–3) μ m. Chlamydospores globose to subglobose, $(7.5-)13.5(-19) \times (6.5-)12(-15.5) \mu m$, mostly smooth some appear rough with deposits, thick-walled, formed singly or more commonly in short chains of up to four to five, becoming brown with age.

Ilyonectria robusta isolate KARE1741 colonies after 14 d average 82 mm on PDA, medium-growing with even margin expansion (Fig. 4E). Center of colony on PDA is rust-colored with abundant felty aerial hyphae with a buff margin, flat and submerged. Conidiophores (54–)77.5(–112.5) µm, long, slender, mainly from aerial hyphae, also as sporodochial pulvinate domes of slimy masses on SNA. Phialides (13.5-)21.5(-32.5) µm, wider at the base $(1.5-)2(-3) \mu m$ and tapering at the apex (1-)1.5(-2)μm. Macroconidia cylindrical, straight to slightly bent to one side near the apical cell, (1-)3-septate (Fig. 4F); 1-septate conidia $(11.5-)17(-24.5) \times (2-)3(-3.5) \mu m$; 2-septate conidia (11.5-) $15.5(-20.5) \times (2.5-)3(-4.5) \mu m$; 3-septate conidia (13-)18.5(-24) \times (2.5–)3.5(–4.5) µm. Microconidia abundant, aseptate, elliptical, $(4.5-)6(-8) \times (1.5-)2(-3) \mu m$. Chlamydospores globose to subglobose, (6.5–)10.5(–14) × (6–)9(–12.5) μm, mostly smooth some appear rough with deposits, thick-walled, mostly occurring in concatenated chains of up to four to five, becoming golden-brown with age. No sexual morphs were observed on PDA nor SNA after 60 d.

Taxonomy

Morphological comparisons coupled with multi-locus phylogenetic analyses (MP and ML) of the combined multi-locus dataset identified two distinct and well-supported lineages for which no apparent species names exist. Thus, we propose the following new species binomials to properly circumscribe these unique species that were isolated from diseased roots of perennial fruit and nut crops in this study.

Neonectria californica D.P. Lawr. & Trouillas, sp. nov. MycoBank MB829442. Figs 1, 5.

Etymology: californica, named after the State of California, where the ex-type strain was collected.

Sexual morph: Undetermined. Asexual morph: Conidiophores simple or complex. Simple conidiophores short and sparsely branched, (30–)62.5(–86.5) μ m long terminating in a whorl of phialides. *Phialides* monophialidic, cylindrical, tapering toward the apex, (12–)19(–29) μ m long, (1.5–)2.5(–2.5) μ m wide at the base, and (1.5–)1.5(–1.5) μ m wide at the apex. *Macroconidia* on



Fig. 5. Neonectria californica sp. nov. (holotype BPI 910947, ex-type culture CBS 145774). **A.** Fourteen-day-old PDA culture. **B.** Macroconidia. **C.** Conidiophores. **D.** Sporodochial pulvinate dome of slimy masses of macroconidia. Scale bars: $B-C = 30 \mu m$; $D = 65 \mu m$.

SNA produced predominately in sporodochial pulvinate domes of slimy masses, (1–)3-septate, generally cylindrical, smooth-walled, some slightly curved, slightly wider at the base, with rounded end cells; 1-septate conidia (17.5–)20(–22.5) × (2.5–) 3.5(–4.5) µm; 2-septate conidia (18–)21.5(–23.5) × (2.5–)3.5(–4) µm; 3-septate conidia (21–)23.5(–27.5) × (3–)3.5(–4.5) µm. *Microconidia* and *chlamydospores* not observed on SNA.

Culture characteristics: Colonies after 14 d average 55.3 mm on PDA, medium-growing with even margin expansion. Center of colony on PDA is white with abundant floccose aerial hyphae producing a cottony texture with a flat and submerged off-white margin with sparse aerial hyphae emerging directly behind the advancing front. Optimal growth temperature was 20 °C.

Host: Pistacia vera.

Distribution: Madera County, California, USA.

Specimen examined: **USA**, California, Madera County, isolated from symptomatic roots (necrotic lesions and black discoloration of the root cortex, epidermis, and vascular tissues) of *Pistacia vera*, 13 Jun. 2017, *F.P. Trouillas* (**holotype** BPI 910947, culture ex-type CBS 145774).

Notes: Phylogenetic analyses of the ITS+*TEF1*+*TUB2* combined three-gene dataset suggests that *N. neomacrospora*, *N. ditissima*, and *N. major* are the closest relatives of *N. californica*. Neonectria ditissima, N. major, and N. neomacrospora produce microconidia (Castlebury et al. 2006, Schmitz et al. 2017),



Fig. 6. *Thelonectria aurea sp. nov.* (holotype BPI 910948, ex-type culture CBS 145584). **A.** Fourteen-day-old PDA culture. **B.** Macroconidia. **C.** Conidiophores and conidia. **D.** Macroconidia. Scale bars: $B = 35 \mu m$; C–D = $30 \mu m$.

whereas *N. californica* does not. Macroconidia of *N. ditissima*, *N. major*, and *N. neomacrospora* range from 3–8 -septate, whereas only 3-septate macroconidia were observed for *N. californica*.

Thelonectria aurea D.P. Lawr. & Trouillas, sp. nov. MycoBank MB829441. Figs 1, 6.

Etymology: *aurea*, named after the golden color of the colony produced on PDA.

Sexual morph: Undetermined. Asexual morph: Phialides mostly emerge directly from hyphae some are borne apically on irregularly branching groups of cells, cylindrical to slightly swollen, (11–)15(–18.5) µm long, (2–)2(–2.5) µm wide at the base and (1.5–)1.5(–2.5) µm towards the apex. Macroconidia on SNA produced predominately in concentric rings of slimy pulvinate masses, 3-septate, cylindrical to slightly fusiform with curved or rounded end cells, (24–)31(–37) × (4–)4.5(–5.5) µm, most segments have internal spherical occlusions. Microconidia and chlamydospores not observed on SNA.

Culture characteristics: Colonies after 14 d average 37.4 mm on PDA, medium- to slow-growing with even margin expansion. Center of colony on PDA is pure yellow to amber with some aerial hyphae and margin of colony is white and flat with sparse aerial hyphae emerging directly behind the advancing front. Optimal growth temperature was 25 °C.

Hosts: Olea europaea, Pistacia vera, Prunus avium, Prunus persica, and Vitis vinifera.

Distribution: Glenn, Fresno, and Madera Counties, California, USA.

Specimen examined: **USA**, California, Glenn County, isolated from symptomatic roots (necrotic lesions and black discoloration of the root cortex, epidermis, and vascular tissues) of *Olea europaea*, 13 Apr. 2017, *F.P. Trouillas* (**holotype** BPI 910948, culture ex-type CBS 145584).

Additional material examined: **USA**, California, Fresno County, isolated from symptomatic roots (necrotic lesions and black discoloration of the root cortex, epidermis, and vascular tissues) of *Prunus persica* (peach), 19 Sept. 2017, *M.T. Nouri* (KARE1923).

Notes: Thelonectria aurea clusters in a well-supported clade closely related to *T. truncata* and distantly related to members of the *T. coronata* and *T. veuillotiana* complexes. Thelonectria aurea only produced three-septate conidia which were on average, $(31 \times 4.5 \ \mu\text{m})$, shorter than the minimum length reported for *T. truncata* three-septate conidia, $(40.5-)46.9(-71.4) \ \mu\text{m}$ (Salazar-Salgado *et al.* 2012), thereby morphologically distinguishing the two taxa.

DISCUSSION

This study represents the first comprehensive molecular phylogeny to elucidate the identity and diversity of cylindrocarpon-like fungi associated with black foot disease of grapevine and root rot symptoms in other diverse economically important perennial fruit and nut crops in California. Multi-locus sequence typing along with morphological studies unveiled the identity of 10 previously described pathogenic cylindrocarponlike species associated with diseased roots of perennial crops in California. These included Campylocarpon fasciculare, grape; Dactylonectria alcacerensis, grape; D. ecuadoriensis, olive; D. macrodidyma, almond, grape, pistachio, and olive; D. novozelandica, cherry, grape, and pistachio; D. torresensis, pistachio; D. valentina, olive; Ilyonectria capensis, peach; I. liriodendri, cherry, kiwi, and walnut; and I. robusta, olive. All associations except C. fasciculare on grape (Halleen et al. 2004, Correia et al. 2013, Akgul et al. 2014), D. novozelandica on grape (Cabral et al. 2012a, b), and I. liriodendri on kiwi (Erper et al. 2011) are reported from California, to the best of our knowledge, for the first time.

Morphological assessments revealed that *Dactylonectria* and *Ilyonectria* conidia are very similar in terms of shape, septation, and dimensions amongst and within both genera as noted in previous studies (Cabral *et al.* 2012a, b, Lombard *et al.* 2014). Both colony and conidial morphology have been extensively used to delimit fungal species associated with black foot disease of grapevine (Halleen *et al.* 2004, Petit & Gubler 2005, Schroers *et al.* 2008), some with limited success. For example, Halleen *et al.* (2004) noticed cultural and conidial differences amongst a collection of fungi isolated from asymptomatic and black foot affected grapevines from nurseries and vineyards in major viticultural areas of the world including Australia, France, New Zealand, and South Africa. Results of morphological observations revealed that *Campylocarpon* with large robust macroconidia that are mostly 3–4-septate, cylindrical, and

slightly to moderately curved could be easily distinguished from those of I. destructans (formerly C. destructans) and D. macrodidyma (formerly C. macrodidymum/I. macrodidyma). Furthermore, Halleen et al. (2004) stated that molecularly determined I. destructans isolates were morphologically indistinguishable from previously described I. destructans isolates (Booth 1966, Samuels & Brayford 1990) and thus distinguishable from D. macrodidyma macroconidia which are characterized as 1-3(-4)-septate, straight or sometimes slightly curved, cylindrical or typically minutely widening toward the tip, with apical cell typically slightly bent to one side. Petit & Gubler (2005) revealed that the cylindrocarpon-like fungi I. destructans and D. macrodidyma (previously known as Cylindrocarpon macrodidymum/Ilyonectria macrodidyma) associated with black foot disease in California were genetically distinct based on three separate loci (ITS, mitochondrial small subunit, and TUB2), however morphological comparisons of the two species could not distinguish them confidently. The statistical analysis by Petit & Gubler (2005) revealed that D. macrodidyma conidia were significantly larger than those of I. destructans, but the mean values of conidial dimensions were similar and their distributions largely overlapped, therefore they determined that conidial characters were unable to properly disentangle these two species (which have been shown to reside in different genera), which is in strong accord with Cabral et al. (2012)a, b and Lombard et al. (2014) who strongly suggests that molecular data are necessary to obtain a confident species diagnosis when working with species in the genera Dactylonectria and Ilyonectria.

Several gene fragments namely, ITS, TEF1, and TUB2, have been used extensively in molecular phylogenetic analyses of plant pathogenic ascomycetes either as single-gene or combined multi-gene analyses. However, some serious conflicts were disclosed in this study by comparing the commonly employed three-gene dataset, ITS+TEF1+TUB2, versus other three-gene combinations (Table 3) and the four-gene dataset (ITS+TEF1+TUB2+HIS) in relation to accurate identification of Dactylonectria species. In this study, the three-gene analyses of ITS+TEF1+TUB2 provided low to moderate support for D. ecuadoriensis (74 % / 72 %), D. macrodidyma (76 % / 82 %), D. valentina (77 % / 78 %), and no support for D. novozelandica (<70 %/<70 %). Similarly, Úrbez-Torres et al. (2014) recovered Dactylonectria isolates from black foot disease associated grapevines in British Columbia, Canada, however their identity remains unresolved, based on the analysis of the three-gene dataset (ITS+TEF1+TUB2).

The *HIS* locus has been shown to be a powerful marker for species delimitation especially within cylindrocarponlike asexual morphs (Cabral *et al.* 2012a, b) by resolving the former 'macrodidyma' species-complex into four very closely related lineages (Cabral *et al.* 2012b) and close relatives of *D. vitis* described from Ecuador (*D. ecuadoriensis*) and Spain (*D. valentina*), respectively (Gordillo *et al.* 2017, Mora-Sala *et al.* 2018). Results from this study corroborate the increased accuracy of *Dactylonectria* species identification by incorporating the *HIS* locus into multi-locus analyses that include *TEF1* and *TUB2* data (Cabral *et al.* 2012a, b).

These results strongly suggest that the previous identifications of *Dactylonectria macrodidyma* (former *Cylindrocarpon macrodidymum/llyonectria macrodidyma*) isolates associated with black foot disease of grapevine (Petit & Gubler 2005, Petit *et al.* 2011, Úrbez-Torres *et al.* 2014) and olive

root rot (Úrbez-Torres et al. 2012), at least in North America, are uncertain. Most of the aforementioned studies were conducted before the utility of HIS was widely realized; therefore, the species diversity of Dactylonectria in North America has likely been underestimated. For instance, Cabral et al. (2012a, b) revealed that isolates previously identified as "Cylindrocarpon marcrodidymum", from black foot affected vines in California, indeed comprised three phylogenetic species recognized in the 'macrodidyma' species-complex (i.e. D. macrodidyma, D. novozelandica, and D. torresensis). The current study has revealed that the fourth species in the 'macrodidyma' speciescomplex, D. alcacerensis, is also present in California vineyards. All previously reported isolates/species in this complex, in North America, will need to be re-examined with the addition of the HIS locus to refine and confirm their species identity. Similarly, the identification of Cylindrocarpon destructans (i.e. Ilyonectria destructans/radicicola), originally identified as the causal agent of black foot disease (Maluta & Larignon 1991), in North America are likely erroneous. Cylindrocarpon destructans isolates previously identified from French and Portuguese vineyards were later shown to actually be I. liriodendri, based on morphological and molecular data (Halleen et al. 2006). The same results have also been reported from vineyards in Spain, (Alaniz et al. 2009), Australia (Whitelaw-Weckert et al. 2007), Uruguay (Abreo et al. 2010), and in California (Petit & Gubler 2007). Therefore, all previously collected isolates of C. destructans (syn. C. radicicola), at least in North America, should be re-examined in order to confirm their identity.

Like Halleen et al. (2004) we noticed morphological variation in appearances of cultures and micro-morphological assessments of conidia for some cylindrocarpon-like fungal isolates. A single isolate (KARE1838), now referred to as N. californica and a group of 13 isolates (KARE98, KARE1830-KARE1837, KARE1839-KARE1841, and KARE1923), now referred to as T. aurea, were also evaluated morphologically and phylogenetically. Colony morphology, macroconidial characteristics, and lack of microconidia and chlamydospore production of isolate KARE1838 resembled members of the genus Neonectria (Booth 1966, Rossman et al. 1999, Chaverri et al. 2011). Neonectria californica clustered strongly in the genus Neonectria based on the three-gene combined analyses (ITS+TEF1+TUB2) with no evidence of systematic error. Typically, Neonectria species produce straight, cylindrical, 5-septate macroconidia with rounded end cells, microconidia or chlamydospores but not both. Neonectria species are known from temperate regions generally associated with woody substrata and may cause cankers, and are rarely found in the soil (Chaverri et al. 2011), which may explain why we only recovered a single isolate of N. californica associated with symptomatic pistachio tree roots. The closest relatives of N. californica (i.e. N. neomacrospora, N. major, and N. ditissima) have been associated with bark cankers of broad-leaf or coniferous trees in Europe and in North America (Castlebury et al. 2006). Neonectria ditissima has been shown to be highly pathogenic to apple and pear trees causing cankers that limit the longevity and productivity of orchards (Castlebury et al. 2006). Therefore, it is likely that the new species, N. californica, recovered in this study may be an opportunistic pathogen of woody substrates including plant roots. Future pathogenicity trials will test this hypothesis.

Members of the genus *Thelonectria* are cosmopolitan and abundant in temperate, subtropical, and tropical regions including the Mediterranean-like climate in California with mild to cool, wet, winter seasons and hot and dry during the summer months. Thelonectria aurea resembles other Thelonectria species except that only 3-septate macroconidia were observed, whereas many other Thelonectria species produce, on average, 5-septate macroconidia with rounded end cells that may superficially resemble Campylocarpon species (Chaverri et al. 2011). This has led some authors to speculate that these two genera are closely related (Halleen et al. 2004). Indeed, Lombard et al. (2015) provided strong evidence that the cylindrocarpon-like genera Dactylonectria, Ilyonectria, and Neonectria were more closely related to each other than to either Campylocarpon or Thelonectria. Chaverri et al. (2011) stated that the only morphological differences between Campylocarpon and Thelonectria were the number of septa in macroconidia with four in Campylocarpon and five in Thelonectria, however this has now been shown to be an inadequate diagnostic character for these fungi as T. lucida, T. trachosa, and T. truncata have been reported to produce 3-sepatate macroconidia (Salgado-Salazar et al. 2012), and now too T. aurea. Molecular phylogenetic analyses easily separate these two genera based on DNA data.

Thelonectria species have been collected mainly from the bark of recently killed or dying broad-leaf and coniferous trees often causing small cankers and rarely occurring in the soil (Chaverri et al. 2011). However, Thelonectria aurea isolates recovered in this study were routinely isolated from symptomatic root rots of diverse fruit trees including almond, cherry, olive, peach, pistachio, and including grapevine. Until now, T. blackeriella, from Italy was the only reported Thelonectria species known to cause black foot disease in grapevines (Carlucci et al. 2017). However, Petit et al. (2011) reported an isolate of undetermined identity belonging to the "Neonectria mammoidea group" (now Thelonectria) based on DNA sequences of ITS and TUB2 from symptomatic grapevines in Canada and New York, USA. BLASTn analyses suggest that this undetermined species is T. olida or a close relative, which is, interestingly, sister to T. blackeriella. Thelonectria aurea seems to have a broad host range as suggested by the isolation of this fungus from five different perennial cropping systems in central California.

This study has resulted in several new putative fungal-host associations across diverse perennial crops in California. This is particularly alarming as some of these associations may likely represent emerging or re-emerging threats to sustainable crop production in California. Future pathogenicity trials will attempt to elucidate the virulence, host ranges, and host preferences as several cylindrocarpon-like species were isolated from different host plants, thereby contributing to a better understanding of cylindrocarpon-like fungal ecology and natural history.

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