

INTRODUCTION

The present issue of *Studies in Mycology* revises the *Botryosphaeriales*, which represents a well-known order containing numerous plant pathogenic fungi associated with fruit rot, leaf spots, die-back, gummosis and cankers of Angiosperms (e.g. *Botryosphaeria*, *Diplodia*, *Phyllosticta*, *Sphaeropsis*, etc.), though some members are also associated with root rot (e.g. *Macrophomina*). Although the order has only recently been introduced (Schoch *et al.* 2006), and presently contains two families, *Botryosphaeriaceae* and *Planistromellaceae* (Minnis *et al.* 2012), it is clear that several taxa could not be well accommodated in this familial structure (Liu *et al.* 2012). The present issue focuses firstly on resolving the families that occur in the order, and secondly focuses on the species that are known from culture and DNA data, providing morphological keys to their identification, and associated DNA barcodes.

REFERENCES

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DEDICATION: Robert (Bob) A. Shoemaker



Dr Shoemaker is well known to plant pathologists around the world for his taxonomic studies on *Dothideomycetes*, having monographed several genera within the class. His very thorough descriptions of ascomycete species in the class have set a high standard for the field of ascomycete taxonomy, and many systematists have adopted his format of description. He has published over 100 papers in his career (frequently being more than 100 pages in length), which provide a valuable resource to mycologists and plant pathologists alike. Several of these papers dealt with the *Botryosphaeria* complex, and therefore it is also fitting that the present issue of *Studies in Mycology* is dedicated to him. He has excelled in working out the life cycles of species in many genera, and has been a constant source of information for the community. He has also served in an editorial capacity on the *Canadian Plant Disease Survey* and *Fungi Canadensis*. Last but not least, Bob has helped build a world-class mycological fungarium at Biodiversity (Mycology and Microbiology), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, which is one of the most important fungaria in North America. Dr Robert Shoemaker has been recognised for having made an outstanding contribution to global mycology, and also has been honoured as Distinguished Mycologist of the Mycological Society of America. Throughout his 46-year-long career, Bob

has collaborated with many plant pathologists on taxonomic issues pertaining to fungal plant diseases, and continues to provide valued advice to his colleagues, and to the clients of the Canadian National Identification Service.