

# Fungi causing powdery mildew on plants of a Botanical Garden in Southern Finland

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## Abstract

Fungi that cause powdery mildew on plants are plant pathogenic parasites (*Erysiphales*) and can significantly reduce the ornamental value of plants and cause significant yield losses among cultivated plants. In this study, 94 plant accessions infected with powdery mildew were observed in Kumpula Botanic Garden, Helsinki, Finland, in 2015. The taxonomic affiliation and species richness of powdery mildew fungi were investigated. Morphological studies by microscope distinguished only 14 fungal species, whereas further comparisons of internal transcribed spacer (ITS) sequences enabled the identification of 28 species. Hence, ITS sequencing improved the reliability of species determination, as compared with the use of morphological characteristics only. The vegetation in an area of six hectares supported a wide range of fungi that cause powdery mildew as well as hyperparasitic microbes, which may balance the impact of pathogens in host plants. The findings of this study emphasize the role of botanical gardens in protecting biological diversity in urban areas.

## Introduction

The fungi in the order *Erysiphales* are obligate parasites that cause symptoms of powdery mildew and crop losses in a wide range of cultivated agricultural and horticultural crops, including ornamental plants (Glawe 2008). Globally, ca. 900 powdery mildew-causing fungi (PMCF) have been described (Braun & Cook 2012). However, diversity among PMCF in the Northern Hemisphere is more limited due to the short growing season and early death of host plants due to frost. In fact, diversity of PMCF in the Northern Hemisphere hasn't been studied extensively. Botanical gardens in the Northern Hemisphere offer the possibility for studying the diversity of PMCF in this region, as they contain a wide range of plant species that are adapted to a northern climate. Such studies are relatively rare and have so far focused mainly on single taxa rather than on the analysis of overall diversity of PMCF within a certain area (Korytnanskaya 2010; Mieslerová et al. 2020a; Mieslerová et al. 2020b).

Over 100 PMCF have been identified and are listed in the Finnish Biodiversity Information Facility (Salo et al. 2019), and 256 natural host-fungus combinations associated with powdery mildew have been documented in Finland (Weltzien 1978). Kumpula Botanic Garden of University of Helsinki (subsequently referred to as KBG) hosts a collection of ca. 1500 plant taxa, consisting of plants that have been introduced from different areas of the Northern Hemisphere with bioclimatic habitats resembling Southern Finland (Schulman & Hällfors 2012). Powdery mildew is common and can significantly reduce the ornamental value of plants in the garden. The large and diverse collection of plant species in the garden may host a wide range of non-native PMCF from other countries.

PMCF can be cumbersome to study because hyphae may not be long-lasting, PMCF cannot grow on artificial media and need a living host to survive, and the characteristic structures used for identification by microscopy may be difficult to find and/or maintain. These obstacles can be alleviated by use of DNA-based methods, such as analysis of the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) sequences between the small and large subunit of ribosomal RNA genes. ITS sequences are used as universal barcodes for fungi

(Schoch 2012) allowing identification of species based on their ITS sequences and comparisons with those deposited in gene banks (Benson et al. 2013).

The aim of this study was to use morphological characteristics and molecular techniques, such as barcodes based on ITS sequences, to determine the PMCF species infecting plants in KBG, to study species richness of PMCF, and to find out whether the population of PMCF differs from the species previously characterized in Finland.

## Materials and methods

### Collection of samples for analysis of morphology and ITS sequences

KBG is located at latitude 60.192059(N) and longitude 24.945831(E) in Southern Finland. In total, 94 plant accessions with symptoms of PMCF (**Fig. 1**) were observed during the growth season of 2015 (May 18th to September 30th), and 70 herbarium samples were collected. Plant disease symptoms were surveyed once a week. Samples were taken from symptomatic parts, dried between sheets of blotting paper, and preserved for further examination (**Table 1**). In addition, powdery mildew (mycelia) was scraped off of 42 plants, transferred into Eppendorf tubes, and frozen at -18 °C for DNA analysis.

### Morphological examination of fungi

All dried samples from the herbarium were examined and measured with a Researcher Bino II light microscope (Bresser GmbH, Germany) that was equipped with a 3-megapixel camera and MicroCamLab software (v. 7.3.1.8). Fresh mycelia, were transferred onto a microscope slide covered with a piece of adhesive tape and placed on top of a drop of water (Heffer et al. 2006). Characteristics of the mycelium (color, width, growth habit, and shape of appressoria), anamorphs (size and shape of conidia and conidiophores; observation of conidiogenesis) and teleomorphs stages (size and color of chas-



**Fig. 1.** Symptoms of powdery mildew on different hosts. (a) *Viburnum lantana* (00XX-0153), (b) *Salix caprea* (2010-0939), and (c) *Acer platanoides* (00XX-0004). Numbers in parentheses indicate accession numbers for individual plant specimens.

mothecia; shape of appendages; shape, size, and color of asci and ascospores) were recorded. Species identification of PMCF was based on the descriptions of Braun (1995) and Braun & Cook (2012).

#### DNA isolation and design of PMCF-specific primers

DNA was extracted from the fungal mycelia using DNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen GmbH, Hilden, Germany). All 42 samples were screened first by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using the universal primers ITS5/ITS4 (White et al. 1990) to ensure that samples contained fungal DNA. Subsequently, PMCF-specific primers were designed by downloading rDNA sequences of powdery mildew-causing fungi from NCBI GenBank (Benson et al. 2013): AB022346.1, AB022347.1, AB022349.1, AB022354.1, AB022364.1, AB022365.1, AB022366, AB022369.1, AB022373.1, AB022374.1, AB022398.1, AB022399.1, AB022402.1, AB022404.1, AB022405.1, AB022410.2, AB022411.1, AB022419.1, AB033477.1, AB033479.1, AB033482.1, AB077619.1, AB077671.1, AB080411.1, AB080470.1, AB103069.1, AB103078.1, AB103370.1, AB193465.1, AB237812.1, and AF021796.1. These sequences were aligned with MultiAlin software (Corpet 1988) and used to design primers

for PCR (18S-2F, 28S-4R, and 28S-6R) and sequencing (5.8S-F, 5.8S-2F, 5.8S-R, and 5.8S-3R) (Fig. 2).

#### PCR reactions

The whole ITS region (ITS1 + 5.8S + ITS2), which included partial 18S and 28S regions (800–900 bp), was amplified by PCR using the primer set 18S-2F/28S-4R or 18S-2F/28S-6R (Fig. 2). PCR reactions consisted of a final volume of 25  $\mu$ l containing 1  $\mu$ l DNA template, 2.5  $\mu$ l of Optimized 10x DyNAzyme buffer, 0.5  $\mu$ l of 10 mM dNTPs (Thermo Fisher Scientific Baltics, UAB, Vilnius, Lithuania), 1  $\mu$ l of 10  $\mu$ M forward primer (18S-2F), 1  $\mu$ l of 10  $\mu$ M reverse primer (28S-4R or 28S-6R), and 0.25  $\mu$ l of 2 U/ $\mu$ l DyNAzyme II DNA polymerase (Thermo Fisher Scientific Baltics, UAB, Vilnius, Lithuania). Thermal cycling included an initial denaturation at 94  $^{\circ}$ C for 1 min, followed by 30 cycles of denaturation at 94  $^{\circ}$ C for 30 s, annealing at 50  $^{\circ}$ C for 30 s, and elongation at 72  $^{\circ}$ C for 40 s and a final extension of 8 min at 72  $^{\circ}$ C. All PCR products were electrophoresed in an agarose gel with a 1% Tris-acetate-EDTA buffer (Sigma-Aldrich Co., St. Louis, MO, USA). Ethidium bromide was added (2.5 mg/ml) to the gel to visualize the PCR products.

**Table 1.** Ninety-four host plants from KBG (Helsinki, Finland) on which symptoms of powdery mildew were observed and the methods used for sampling.

Host plant a, b	Family	Collected c	Accession
<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i>	<i>Malvaceae</i>		2010-0348
<i>Acer negundo</i> (H) (Amp) (9)	<i>Sapindaceae</i>	31.8.	1992-0060
<i>Acer platanoides</i> (H) (Amp)	<i>Sapindaceae</i>	30.9.	00XX-0004
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	<i>Sapindaceae</i>		00XX-0167
<i>Acer platanoides</i> (H) (Amp)	<i>Sapindaceae</i>	30.9.	00XX-0166
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	<i>Sapindaceae</i>		00XX-0003
<i>Acer tataricum</i> subsp. <i>ginnala</i>	<i>Sapindaceae</i>		1994-0891
<i>Acer tataricum</i> subsp. <i>ginnala</i> (H) (Amp) (40)	<i>Sapindaceae</i>	30.9.	2008-0104
<i>Acer tataricum</i> subsp. <i>tataricum</i> (H)	<i>Sapindaceae</i>	3.8.	2005-0017
<i>Acer tataricum</i> subsp. <i>tataricum</i> (H) (Amp)	<i>Sapindaceae</i>	10.9.	2008-0161
<i>Aconitum napellus</i> (H) (13)	<i>Ranunculaceae</i>	20.8.	1995-0451
<i>Alchemilla</i> <i>indet.</i>	<i>Rosaceae</i>		2008-1029
<i>Arctium lappa</i> var. <i>edule</i> (H) (Amp) (25)	<i>Asteraceae</i>	20.8.	2010-0296
<i>Avena sativa</i> (H) (37)	<i>Poaceae</i>	20.8.	2009-0567
<i>Avena strigosa</i>	<i>Poaceae</i>		2014-0350
<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>sabellica</i> (H)	<i>Brassicaceae</i>	29.9.	2013-0024
<i>Campanula bononiensis</i> (H)	<i>Campanulaceae</i>	30.9.	2012-0735
<i>Centaurea phrygia</i> (H) (Amp) (10)	<i>Asteraceae</i>	30.9.	1992-0147
<i>Clematis recta</i> (H) (31)	<i>Ranunculaceae</i>	23.9.	2004-0502
<i>Cucumis sativus</i> (H) (35)	<i>Cucurbitaceae</i>	20.8.	2013-0042
<i>Cucurbita maxima</i> (H)	<i>Cucurbitaceae</i>	23.9.	2015-0123
<i>Cucurbita moschata</i> (H)	<i>Cucurbitaceae</i>	23.9.	2015-0125
<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> (H) (Amp)	<i>Cucurbitaceae</i>	23.9.	2015-0176
<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> (H)	<i>Cucurbitaceae</i>	23.9.	2015-0175
<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> (H) (Amp) (36)	<i>Cucurbitaceae</i>	8.9.	2015-0124
<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> (H)	<i>Cucurbitaceae</i>	23.9.	2015-0300
<i>Delphinium elatum</i> (H) (38)	<i>Ranunculaceae</i>	3.8.	2006-0690
<i>Delphinium elatum</i> (H)	<i>Ranunculaceae</i>	31.8.	1995-0091
<i>Delphinium</i> <i>indet.</i> (H) (1)	<i>Ranunculaceae</i>	3.8.	2008-0149
<i>Echium maculatum</i> (H) (28)	<i>Boraginaceae</i>	3.8.	2012-0627
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	<i>Boraginaceae</i>		2011-0721
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i> (H)	<i>Celastraceae</i>	3.8.	1992-0099
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	<i>Celastraceae</i>		1996-0337
<i>Geranium pretense</i> (H) (39)	<i>Geraniaceae</i>	10.9.	2001-0068
<i>Geranium sanquineum</i> (H) (7)	<i>Geraniaceae</i>	3.8.	1977-0512

**Table 1. continues  
on the next page**

<b>Host planta, b</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>Collected c</b>	<b>Accession</b>
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	<i>Rosaceae</i>		1996-0284
<i>Hieracium umbellatum</i> (H)	<i>Asteraceae</i>	30.9.	2010-1360
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (H)	<i>Poaceae</i>	20.8.	2009-0568
<i>Hypericum ascyron</i> (H) (12)	<i>Hypericaceae</i>	10.9.	1993-0728
<i>Hypericum maculatum</i>	<i>Hypericaceae</i>		2007-0699
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i> (H) (18)	<i>Hypericaceae</i>	23.9.	2003-0634
<i>Incarvillea delavayi</i> (H) (26)	<i>Bignoniaceae</i>	31.8.	2011-1215
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	<i>Caprifoliaceae</i>		1997-0172
<i>Monarda didyma</i> (H) (5)	<i>Lamiaceae</i>	30.9.	1993-0230
<i>Mycelis muralis</i> (H)	<i>Asteraceae</i>	30.9.	2010-1327
<i>Pisum sativum</i> (H)	<i>Fabaceae</i>	23.9.	2005-0571
<i>Pisum sativum</i> (H) (27)	<i>Fabaceae</i>	8.9.	2012-1008
<i>Pisum sativum</i> (H)	<i>Fabaceae</i>	23.9.	2013-0762
<i>Pisum sativum</i> (H)	<i>Fabaceae</i>	23.9.	2010-0650
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> (H) (Amp) (20)	<i>Plantaginaceae</i>	20.8.	2006-0888
<i>Plantago major</i> subsp. <i>major</i> (H) (Amp) (33)	<i>Plantaginaceae</i>	10.9.	2006-0889
<i>Plantago major</i> subsp. <i>major</i> (H) (2)	<i>Plantaginaceae</i>	20.8.	2008-1028
<i>Pulmonaria montana</i>	<i>Boraginaceae</i>		2006-0654
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> (H) (15)	<i>Fagaceae</i>	30.9.	1997-0448
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> (H)	<i>Fagaceae</i>	23.9.	1996-0015
<i>Quercus robur</i> (H) (29)	<i>Fagaceae</i>	31.8.	00XX-0256
<i>Quercus robur</i> (H)	<i>Fagaceae</i>	30.9.	00XX-0035
<i>Rhamnus frangula</i> (H) (Amp) (16)	<i>Rhamnaceae</i>	30.9.	1998-0201
<i>Rosa acicularis</i> subsp. <i>sayi</i> (H) (6)	<i>Rosaceae</i>	3.8.	1969-0232
<i>Rosa amblyotis</i>	<i>Rosaceae</i>		1969-0282
<i>Rosa amblyotis</i>	<i>Rosaceae</i>		1993-0734
<i>Rosa amblyotis</i> (H) (11)	<i>Rosaceae</i>	30.9.	1993-0721
<i>Rosa blanda</i>	<i>Rosaceae</i>		1990-0064
<i>Rosa maximowicziana</i> (H) (Amp) (17)	<i>Rosaceae</i>	23.9.	1998-0600
<i>Rosa mollis</i>	<i>Rosaceae</i>		1994-0443
<i>Rosa nutkana</i>	<i>Rosaceae</i>		1992-0531
<i>Rosa villosa</i>	<i>Rosaceae</i>		2012-0542
<i>Rosa virginiana</i> (H)	<i>Rosaceae</i>	30.9.	1983-0565
<i>Salix caprea</i> (H) (Amp) (30)	<i>Salicaceae</i>	3.8.	1987-0943
<i>Salix caprea</i> (H)	<i>Salicaceae</i>	23.9.	2010-0939
<i>Salix caprea</i> (H) (Amp)	<i>Salicaceae</i>	30.9.	00XX-0095

Host plant a, b	Family	Collected c	Accession
<i>Salix hastata</i> (H) (42)	Salicaceae	20.8.	1977-0871
<i>Salix repens</i> subsp. <i>rosmarinifolia</i> (H)	Salicaceae	31.8.	1980-1929
<i>Salvia tesquicola</i>	Lamiaceae		2012-0751
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> (H)	Adoxaceae	23.9.	2010-0946
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> var. <i>melanocarpa</i> (H) (Amp) (41)	Adoxaceae	3.8.	1987-1194
<i>Solidago canadensis</i> (H) (Amp) (14)	Asteraceae	30.9.	1995-0741
<i>Stachys palustris</i> (H)	Lamiaceae	30.9.	2010-1389
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i> (H) (Amp) (21)	Lamiaceae	8.9.	2007-0700
<i>Succisa pratensis</i> (H) (Amp) (24)	Dipsacaceae	30.9.	2010-1341
<i>Succisa pratensis</i> (H) (19)	Dipsacaceae	10.9.	2006-0844
<i>Symphytum officinale</i> var. <i>bohemicum</i> (H) (Amp) (8)	Boraginaceae	20.8.	1991-0452
<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i>	Ranunculaceae		2013-0911
<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i> (H) (Amp) (22)	Ranunculaceae	23.9.	2008-1011
<i>Thalictrum lucidum</i> (H) (32)	Ranunculaceae	8.9.	2006-0610
<i>Tragopogon capitatus</i>	Asteraceae		2009-0893
<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	Poaceae		2009-0564
<i>Triticum boeoticum</i>	Poaceae		2015-0361
<i>Triticum compactum</i>	Poaceae		2015-0363
<i>Veronica jacquinii</i> (H) (34)	Plantaginaceae	23.9.	2012-0760
<i>Veronica longifolia</i> var. <i>longifolia</i> (H)	Plantaginaceae	30.9.	2010-1391
<i>Veronica spicata</i> (H) (23)	Plantaginaceae	8.9.	2010-0870
<i>Viburnum lantana</i> (H) (Amp) (4)	Adoxaceae	30.9.	00XX-0153
<i>Vicia sylvatica</i> (H) (3)	Fabaceae	8.9.	1991-0137

A samples 1–42 for ITS sequencing. Accession numbers refer to the KBG database (Kotka) and are also used to identify isolates subjected to DNA isolation.

**b** Hyperparasitic fungus (*Ampelomyces quisqualis*) was observed from the sample with a microscope (Amp).

**c** Dates of collection (in the year 2015) for inclusion in herbarium (H).

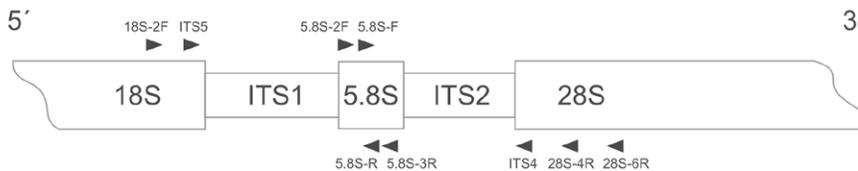
## Sequencing

PCR products were purified using the E.Z.N.A. Gel Extraction Kit (Omega Bio-Tek, Georgia, USA). The purified DNA products were sequenced by Macrogen Inc. (Amsterdam, The Netherlands). Five samples (isolates 4, 8, 9, 28, and 33) were cloned into pGEM-T Easy vector (Promega Corporation, Madison) using *E. coli* 5a cells and sequenced with universal M13F-pUC primer. This approach was used, because direct sequencing did not produce good-quality sequences (data not shown). All ITS1 and ITS2 sequences were deposited in European Nucleotide Archive (ENA) GenBank (accessions LT794916–LT795001).

## Analysis of sequences

All ITS sequences obtained in this study were examined with BioEdit (v. 7.2.5, <http://www.mbio.ncsu.edu/BioEdit/bioedit.html>) software (Ibis Biosciences,

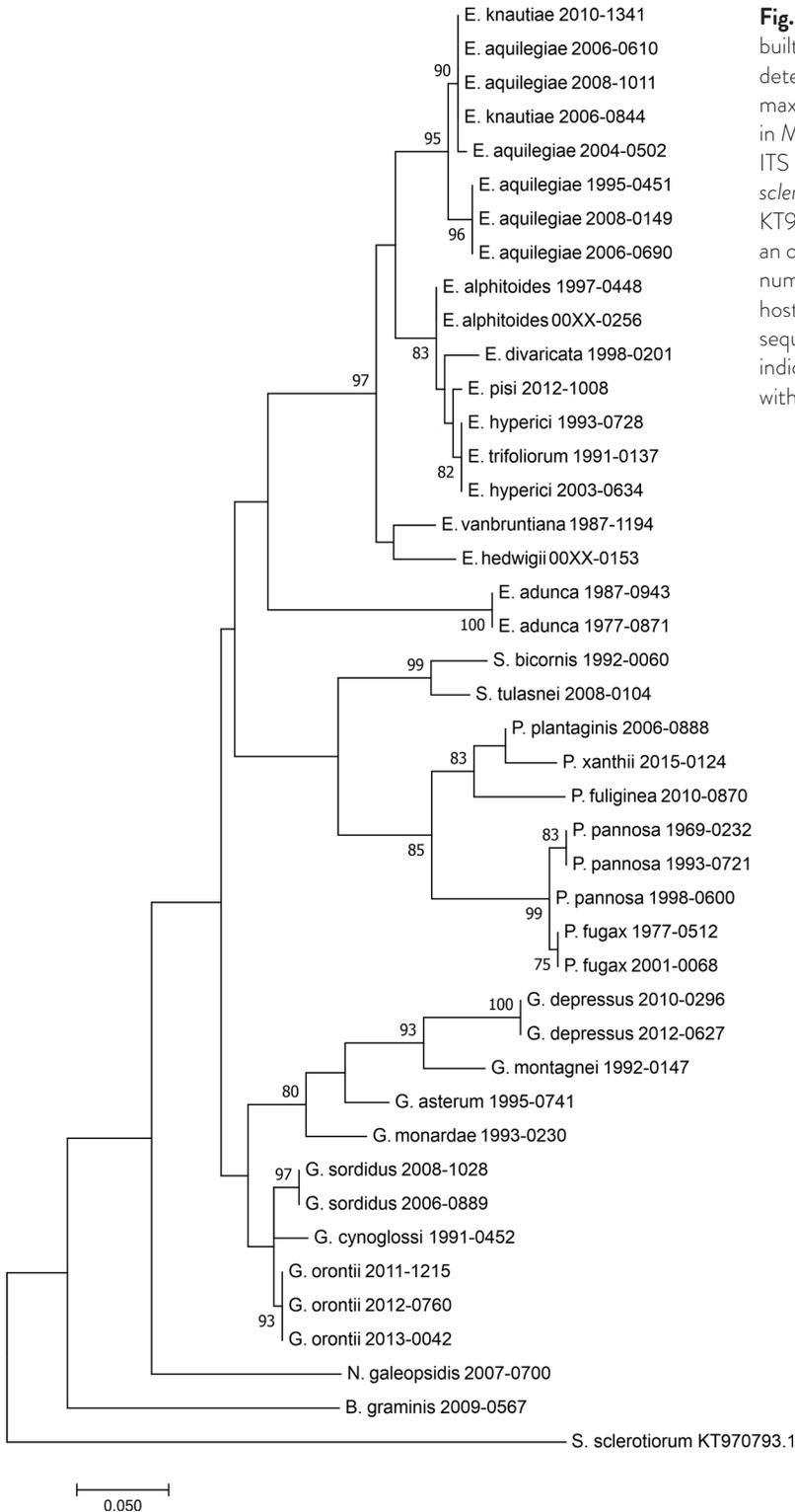
Carlsbad, CA, USA), and all ambiguous regions within the sequences were manually removed. The sequences were processed with the program ITSx (Bengtsson-Palme et al. 2013) to remove conservative rDNA sequences (18S, 5.8S, and 28S) and separate the ITS1 and ITS2 sequences of each isolate. ITS1 and ITS2 of the same sample were joined together using a text editor, followed by comparison with the sequences deposited in GenBank by applying the BLASTn tool (Altschul et al. 1990). Sequences (ITS1 + ITS2) were aligned with AliView software (v. 1.18) (Larsson 2014), and a phylogenetic tree was built using MEGA software (v. 7) (Kumar et al. 2016). The maximum likelihood method with 1000 bootstrap replicates (Felsenstein 1985) was used to estimate branch support. The evolutionary distances were counted with Kimura's two-parameter model (Kimura 1980). The ITS sequences of a closely related fungus, accession no. KT970793 (Baturo-Ciesniewska et al. 2017) from order Helotiales, were used as an outgroup.



PRIMER	PRIMER SEQUENCE (5'→3')
<i>Forward primers</i>	
18S-2F	TGA ATG GCT AAG TGA GGC
ITS5 *	GGA AGT AAA AGT CGT AAC AAG G
5.8S-F	GTA ATG TGA ATT GCA GAA TTT
5.8S-2F	TAA AAC TTT CAA CAA CGG ATC
<i>Reverse primers</i>	
5.8S-R	GCG CAA TGT GCG TTC AAA G
5.8S-3R	GAA CAG GCA TGC CCC TMG
ITS4 *	TCC TCC GCT TAT TGA TAT GC
28S-4R	CCA GAT TTC AAA TTT GAG CT
28S-6R	AAG CAT CTT CTA CAA ATT ACA

\* Universal ITS primers (White et al., 1990)

**Fig. 2.** Primers used for PCR and sequencing. The approximate binding sites of primers used for amplification of ITS1 and ITS2 regions are shown.



**Fig. 3.** Phylogenetic tree built from PMCF sequences determined in this study using maximum likelihood method in MEGA 7 software. The ITS sequence of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* (accession no. KT970793.1) was chosen as an outgroup. KBG accession numbers are provided for the host plants corresponding to the sequenced specimens. The bar indicates 50 nucleotide changes within 1000 nucleotides.

## Results and discussion

### Morphological characteristics and phylogenetic analysis

Altogether, 94 observations of powdery mildew were made on different host plants grown in KBG during the growth season of 2015 (Table 1), which represented 70 plant species from 24 families. Among the 70 herbarium samples collected, 14 species of PMCF were detected and identified. Their identification was based on morphological characteristics only (Supplementary Tables 1 and 2). A hyperparasitic fungus (*Ampelomyces quisqualis* sensu lato) was detected in 23 herbarium samples with a microscope (Table 1). Using the PMCF-specific primers, we were able to amplify rDNA from 37 of the 42 isolates (Table 2). The ITS regions were PCR-amplified from five PMCF samples in which multiple fungi were present and were cloned into pGEM-T Easy vector (Promega Corporation, Madison).

A phylogenetic tree of PMCF including six fungal genera was generated based on the identified sequences (Fig. 3) using BLASTn (Altschul et al. 1990). A few isolates lacked polymorphisms within their ITS sequences. They were assumed to be different species based on their minor morphological variations and previous knowledge of their known hosts as mentioned in the literature (Braun 1995; Braun & Cook 2012).

### Taxonomy

In this study, 28 species of PMCF from six genera were identified based on their morphological characteristics, ITS sequences, or both (Table 3). All PMCF determined in this study were previously known fungi in Finland. One of the identified fungi (*Erysiphe hedwigii*) lacks native hosts in Finland, yet it may thrive on ornamental host plants that are not native to Finland. The results of phylogenetic analyses and species determination based on morphological characteristics were largely consistent. The somewhat ambiguous species are discussed below.

### *Erysiphe* spp

Eleven species of PMCF in the genus *Erysiphe* were identified based on knowledge of their morphological characteristics and analysis of ITS sequences (Table 3). A common feature in genus *Erysiphe* is production of a single conidium (Fig. 4a), whereas in the majority of other powdery mildew fungi the conidial-producing structures are characterized as catenulent (Fig. 4b). The appressoria in *Erysiphe* are typically lobed (Fig. 4c), and this feature helps to identify some samples. The fungal species *E. hedwigii* (isolate 00XX-0153) lacks a native host in Finland but may thrive on its ornamental hosts.

*Erysiphe aquilegiae* sensu lato infects plants within the family *Ranunculaceae* and is found throughout most of the world (Braun & Cook 2012). There are two known variants of the fungus: var. *aquilegiae*, which infects *Thalictrum* and *Clematis*, and var. *ranunculi*, which infects *Aconitum*, *Clematis*, *Delphinium*, and *Thalictrum* (Braun & Cook 2012). In this study, the morphological characteristics were not sufficient to distinguish between these variants on their hosts, but the two clusters of *E. aquilegiae* branches in the phylogenetic tree (Fig. 3) support the variants mentioned by Braun & Cook (2012). In contrast, Cunnington et al. (2004) showed that the ITS sequences are not the best candidates for distinguishing between these variants. On the same phylogenetic tree, isolates *Erysiphe knautiae* 2006-0844 and 2010-1341 showed 100% identity with isolates 2006-0610 and 2008-1011 of *E. aquilegiae* and 95% identity with *E. aquilegiae* isolate 2004-0502. Takamatsu et al. (2015) showed that *E. knautiae* belongs to the homogenous clade *E. aquilegia*, which includes at least 15 fungal species that are identical or differ very little among their rDNA sequences. It is assumed that *E. knautiae* does not infect *Ranunculaceae* hosts but does infect hosts belonging to family *Dipsacaceae* (Braun & Cook 2012). In Finland, *E. knautiae* is known to infect *Knautia arvensis* and *Succisa pratensis* (Braun 1995). The unexpected morphology of the appressoria of *E. knautiae* isolated in this study showed that appressoria in the observed samples were opposite (Fig. 4c) rather than single lobed, although they were described as being single lobed by Braun & Cook (2012).

*Erysiphe hyperici* (Wallr.) S. Blumer and *E. trifoliorum* (Wallr.) U. Braun were identified based on knowledge of their hosts (Braun 1995; Braun & Cook 2012) and ITS sequences. The ITS sequences show

**Table 2.** The samples identified based on their ITS sequence identities, as compared with previously described fungi using the BLASTn tool.

Fungus	Host plant	Isolate	Sample
<i>Blumeria graminis</i> f. sp. <i>avenae</i>	<i>Avena sativa</i>	2009-0567	37a
<i>Erysiphe adunca</i>	<i>Salix caprea</i>	1987-0943	30a
<i>Erysiphe adunca</i>	<i>Salix hastata</i>	1977-0871	42a
<i>Erysiphe alphitoides</i>	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	1997-0448	15a
<i>Erysiphe alphitoides</i>	<i>Quercus robur</i>	00XX-0256	29a
<i>Erysiphe aquilegiae</i>	<i>Delphinium indet.</i>	2008-0149	1a
<i>Erysiphe aquilegiae</i>	<i>Aconitum napellus</i>	1995-0451	13a
<i>Erysiphe aquilegiae</i>	<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i>	2008-1011	22a
<i>Erysiphe aquilegiae</i>	<i>Clematis recta</i>	2004-0502	31a
<i>Erysiphe aquilegiae</i>	<i>Thalictrum lucidum</i>	2006-0610	32a
<i>Erysiphe aquilegiae</i>	<i>Delphinium elatum</i>	2006-0690	38a
<i>Erysiphe divaricata</i>	<i>Rhamnus frangula</i>	1998-0201	16b
<i>Erysiphe hedwigii</i>	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	00XX-0153	4c
<i>Erysiphe hyperici</i>	<i>Hypericum ascyron</i>	1993-0728	12a
<i>Erysiphe hyperici</i>	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	2003-0634	18a
<i>Erysiphe knautiae</i>	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	2006-0844	19a
<i>Erysiphe knautiae</i>	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	2010-1341	24d
<i>Erysiphe pisi</i>	<i>Pisum sativum</i>	2012-1008	27a
<i>Erysiphe trifoliorum</i>	<i>Vicia sylvatica</i>	1991-0137	3a
<i>Erysiphe vanbruntiana</i>	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> var. <i>melanocarpa</i>	1987-1194	41a
<i>Golovinomyces asterum</i> var. <i>solidaginis</i>	<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	1995-0741	14a
<i>Golovinomyces cynoglossi</i>	<i>Symphytum officinale</i> var. <i>bohemicum</i>	1991-0452	8c
<i>Golovinomyces depressus</i>	<i>Arctium lappa</i>	2010-0296	25a
<i>Golovinomyces depressus</i>	<i>Echium maculatum</i>	2012-0627	28c
<i>Golovinomyces monardae</i>	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	1993-0230	5a
<i>Golovinomyces montagnei</i>	<i>Centaurea phrygia</i>	1992-0147	10a
<i>Golovinomyces orontii</i>	<i>Incarvillea delavayi</i>	2011-1215	26e
<i>Golovinomyces orontii</i>	<i>Veronica jacquinii</i>	2012-0760	34a
<i>Golovinomyces orontii</i>	<i>Cucumis sativus</i>	2013-0042	35a
<i>Golovinomyces sordidus</i>	<i>Plantago major</i> subsp. <i>major</i>	2008-1028	2a
<i>Golovinomyces sordidus</i>	<i>Plantago major</i> subsp. <i>major</i>	2006-0889	33c
<i>Neoerysiphe galeopsidis</i>	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	2007-0700	21a
<i>Podosphaera fugax</i>	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	1977-0512	7a
<i>Podosphaera fugax</i>	<i>Geranium pratense</i>	2001-0068	39d
<i>Podosphaera fuliginea</i>	<i>Veronica spicata</i>	2010-0870	23a
<i>Podosphaera pannosa</i>	<i>Rosa acicularis</i> subsp. <i>sayi</i>	1969-0232	6a
<i>Podosphaera pannosa</i>	<i>Rosa amblyotis</i>	1993-0721	11a
<i>Podosphaera pannosa</i>	<i>Rosa maximowicziana</i>	1998-0600	17b
<i>Podosphaera plantaginis</i>	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	2006-0888	20a
<i>Podosphaera xanthii</i>	<i>Cucurbita pepo</i>	2015-0124	36a
<i>Sawadea bicornis</i>	<i>Acer negundo</i>	1992-0060	9c
<i>Sawadea tulasnei</i>	<i>Acer tataricum</i> subsp. <i>ginnala</i>	2008-0104	40a

**a** PCR amplified with primer set 18S-2F/28S-4R and sequenced with primers 5.8SF and 5.8SR

**b** PCR amplified with primer set 18S-2F/28S-4R and 28S-6R, and sequenced with primers 5.8SF and 5.8S-3R

**c** PCR amplified with primer set 18S-2F/28S-6R and sequenced with M13F-pUC primer

**d** PCR amplified with primer set 18S-2F/28S-4R and sequenced with primers 5.8SF and 5.8S-3R

**e** PCR amplified with primer set 18S-2F/28S-4R and sequenced with primers 5.8S-2F and 5.8S-3R

Accession (ENA)		Length (bp)	BLASTn (ITS1 + ITS2)	
ITS1	ITS2		Identity (%)	Accession (ENA)
LT794935	LT794977	324	100	AJ313140.1
LT794916	LT794958	396	100	LC028970.1
LT794917	LT794959	396	100	LC028970.1
LT794918	LT794960	396	100	AB292705.1
LT794919	LT794961	396	100	AB292705.1
LT794922	LT794964	392	99	AY452802.1
LT794920	LT794962	392	99	AB921982.1
LT794923	LT794965	392	100	LC010016.1
LT794921	LT794963	392	99	LC010016.1
LT794924	LT794966	392	100	LC010016.1
LT794925	LT794967	392	100	AY452802.1
LT794926	LT794968	400	99	LC009956.1
LT794934	LT794976	395	100	AF298539.1
LT794928	LT794970	398	100	LC010027.1
LT794927	LT794969	398	100	LC010027.1
LT794929	LT794971	392	100	LC010042.1
LT794930	LT794972	392	100	LC010042.1
LT794931	LT794973	398	100	LC009890.1
LT794932	LT794974	398	100	FJ378884.1
LT794933	LT794975	395	99	LC009909.1
LT794936	LT794978	349	100	KC513763.1
LT794937	LT794979	345	100	AB077684.1
LT794938	LT794980	345	100	AB077675.1
LT794939	LT794981	345	100	AB077675.1
LT794940	LT794982	353	100	LC076842.1
LT794941	LT794983	350	99	AB077656.1
LT794943	LT794985	346	100	AB769464.1
LT794944	LT794986	346	100	AB769464.1
LT794942	LT794984	346	100	AB769464.1
LT794945	LT794987	346	100	AB077658.1
LT794946	LT794988	346	100	AB077658.1
LT794949	LT794991	344	99	KX231842.1
LT794951	LT794993	318	98	AB525922.1
LT794950	LT794992	316	98	AB525922.1
LT794952	LT794994	316	98	AB046986.1
LT794953	LT794995	317	98	AB525937.1
LT794954	LT794996	317	98	AB525937.1
LT794955	LT794997	317	100	KX842352.1
LT794956	LT794998	316	100	JX442063.1
LT794957	LT794999	316	100	KX369541.1
LT794947	LT794989	313	99	AB193380.1
LT794948	LT794990	303	99	AB193385.1

**Table 3.** Summary of 28 PMCF species identified in the host plant samples collected from KBG and their identification methods. The accession numbers refer to the origin of the samples in the database of the KBG (<https://kotka.luomus.fi>).

Fungus	Host plant (accession)	Identification	
		Morphology	ITS
<i>Blumeria graminis</i> (DC.) Speer	<i>Avena sativa</i> (2009-0567)	×	×
	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (2009-0568)	×	
<i>Erysiphe adunca</i> (Wallr.) Fr.	<i>Salix caprea</i> (1987-0943)	×	×
	<i>Salix hastata</i> (1977-0871)	×	×
	<i>Salix caprea</i> (00XX-0095)	×	
	<i>S. repens</i> subsp. <i>rosmarinifolia</i> (1980-1929)	×	
	<i>Salix caprea</i> (2010-0939)	×	
<i>Erysiphe alphitoides</i> (Griffon & Maubl.) U. Braun & S. Takam.	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> (1997-0448)	×	×
	<i>Quercus robur</i> (00XX-0256)		×
	<i>Quercus robur</i> (00XX-0035)	×	
<i>Erysiphe aquilegiae</i> DC.	<i>Aconitum napellus</i> (1995-0451)	×	×
	<i>Clematis recta</i> (2004-0502)	×	×
	<i>Delphinium elatum</i> (2006-0690)	×	×
	<i>Delphinium</i> <i>indet.</i> (2008-0149)	×	×
	<i>Thalictrum aquilegiifolium</i> (2008-1011)	×	×
	<i>Thalictrum lucidum</i> (2006-0610)	×	×
	<i>Delphinium elatum</i> (1995-0091)	×	
<i>Erysiphe divaricata</i> (Wallr.) Schldl.	<i>Rhamnus frangula</i> (1998-0201)		×
<i>Erysiphe euonymi</i> DC.	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i> (1992-0099)	×	
<i>Erysiphe hedwigii</i> (Lév.) U. Braun & S. Takam.	<i>Viburnum lantana</i> (00XX-0153)		×
<i>Erysiphe hyperici</i> (Wallr.) S. Blumer	<i>Hypericum ascyron</i> (1993-0728)		×
	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i> (2003-0634)		×
<i>Erysiphe knautiae</i> Duby	<i>Succisa pratensis</i> (2006-0844)	×	×
	<i>Succisa pratensis</i> (2010-1341)	×	×
<i>Erysiphe pisi</i> DC.	<i>Pisum sativum</i> (2012-1008)		×
<i>Erysiphe triflorum</i> (Wallr.) U. Braun	<i>Vicia sylvatica</i> (1991-0137)		×
<i>Erysiphe vanbruntiana</i> (W.R. Gerard) U. Braun & S. Takam.	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> (2010-0946)	×	
	<i>S. racemosa</i> var. <i>melanocarpa</i> (1987-1194)	×	×
<i>Golovinomyces asterum</i> var. <i>solidaginis</i> U. Braun	<i>Solidago canadensis</i> (1995-0741)		×
<i>Golovinomyces cichoracearum</i> (DC.) V.P. Heluta	<i>Hieracium umbellatum</i> (2010-1360)	×	
<i>Golovinomyces cynoglossi</i> (Wallr.) V.P. Heluta	<i>S. officinale</i> var. <i>bohemicum</i> (1991-0452)	×	×

Fungus	Host plant (accession)	Identification	
		Morphology	ITS
<i>Golovinomyces depressus</i> (Wallr.) V.P. Heluta	<i>Arctium lappa</i> (2010-0296)		×
	<i>Echium maculatum</i> (2012-0627)		×
<i>Golovinomyces monardae</i> (G.S. Nagy) M. Scholler	<i>Monarda didyma</i> (1993-0230)		×
<i>Golovinomyces montagnei</i> U. Braun	<i>Centaurea phrygia</i> (1992-0147)		×
<i>Golovinomyces orontii</i> (Castagne) V.P. Heluta	<i>Cucumis sativus</i> (2013-0042)		×
	<i>Incarvillea delavayi</i> (2011-1215)		×
	<i>Veronica jacquinii</i> (2012-0760)		×
<i>Golovinomyces sordidus</i> (L. Junell) V.P. Heluta	<i>Plantago major</i> subsp. <i>major</i> (2006-0889)		×
	<i>Plantago major</i> subsp. <i>major</i> (2008-1028)		×
<i>Neoerysiphe galeopsidis</i> (DC.) U. Braun	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i> (2007-0700)	×	×
<i>Podosphaera fugax</i> (Penz. & Sacc.) U. Braun & S. Takam.	<i>Geranium pratense</i> (2001-0068)	×	×
	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i> (1977-0512)	×	×
<i>Podosphaera fuliginea</i> (Schltld.) U. Braun & S. Takam.	<i>Veronica spicata</i> (2010-0870)	×	×
<i>Podosphaera pannosa</i> (Wallr.) de Bary	<i>Rosa acicularis</i> subsp. <i>sayi</i> (1969-0232)		×
	<i>Rosa amblyotis</i> (1993-0721)		×
	<i>Rosa maximowicziana</i> (1998-0600)		×
	<i>Rosa virginiana</i> (1983-0565)	×	
<i>Podosphaera plantaginis</i> (Castagne) U. Braun & S. Takam.	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> (2006-0888)		×
<i>Podosphaera xanthii</i> (Castagne) U. Braun & Shishkoff	<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> (2015-0124)		×
<i>Sawadaea bicornis</i> (Wallr.) Homma	<i>Acer negundo</i> (1992-0060)		×
<i>Sawadaea tulasnei</i> (Fuckel) Homma	<i>Acer platanoides</i> (00XX-0004)	×	
	<i>Acer platanoides</i> (00XX-0166)	×	
	<i>Acer tataricum</i> subsp. <i>ginnala</i> (2008-0104)	×	×
	<i>Acer tataricum</i> subsp. <i>tataricum</i> (2005-0017)	×	
	<i>Acer tataricum</i> subsp. <i>tataricum</i> (2008-0161)	×	

100% similarity among all three isolates (1991-0137 on *Vicia sylvatica*, 1993-0728 on *Hypericum ascyron*, and 2003-0634 on *H. perforatum*) although they were collected from hosts belonging to different plant families. The morphological characteristics were not sufficient to distinguish between species. *E. hyperici* is a common fungus of *Hypericum* species in Asia, the Caucasus, Europe, and North America (Braun & Cook 2012). There are also a few native hosts (*Hypericum* spp.) in Finland (Braun 1995; Mäkinen 1965; Rauhala 1957). In contrast, *E. trifoliorum* is known to infect only Fabacean hosts in Africa, North America, the Caucasus, and Europe. It has spread to South America, Australia, and New Zealand as well (Braun & Cook 2012). The native hosts in Finland for *E. trifoliorum* are *Succisa pratensis* and several *Lathyrus* and *Trifolium* species (Ahti 1967; Braun 1995; Mäkinen 1965; Rauhala 1957). Also, genus *Caragana* is among the host plants in Finland (Braun 1995; Rauhala 1957), but *Erysiphe palczewskii* (Jacz.) U. Braun & S. Takam. is known to have displaced *E. trifoliorum* on *Caragana* host plants in Finland (Huhtinen et al. 2001). Takamatsu et al. (2015) presented the clade *E. trifoliorum* sensu lato, which includes both *E. hyperici* and *E. trifoliorum*.

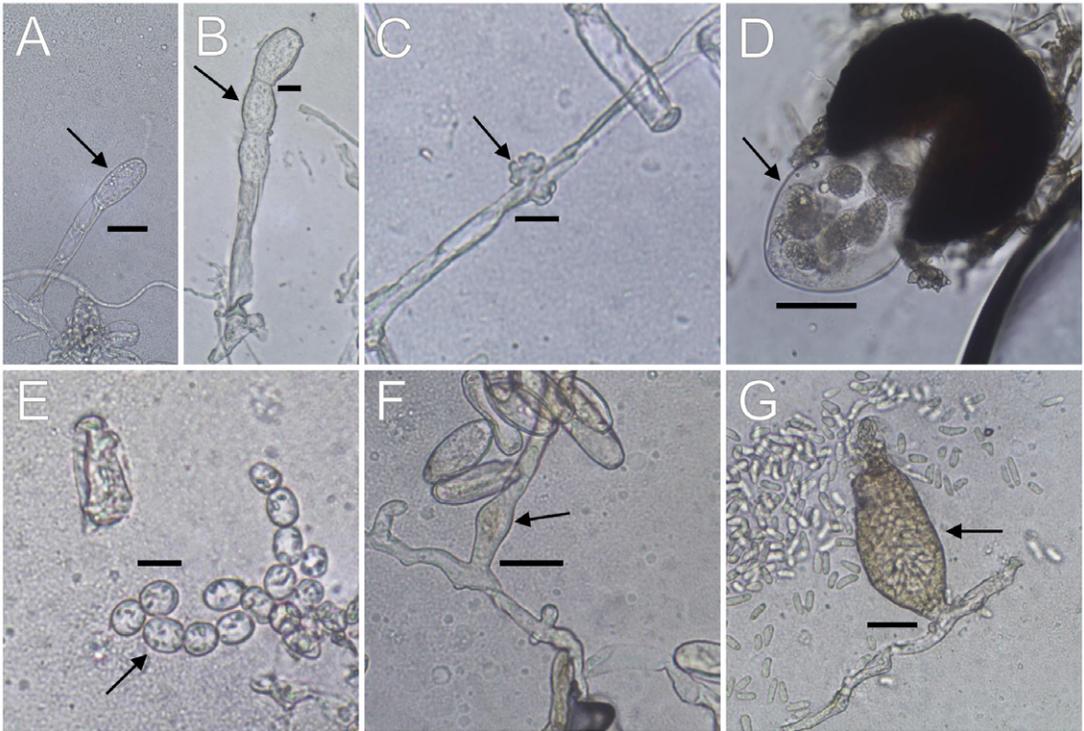
**GOLOVINOMYCES SPP.** Eight species of PMCF were identified as *Golovinomyces* with the methods previously mentioned (Table 3). A common morphological feature for the fungi in this genus is catenescence conidial formation (Fig. 4b). Similar to the *Erysiphe* species, all of the identified *Golovinomyces* species had been previously identified in Finland (Salo et al. 2019). The species *Golovinomyces monardae* (G.S. Nagy) M. Scholler (= *G. biocellatus* Ehrenb.) does not have any native *Monarda* plants as its host in Finland, but it is found on non-native ornamental hosts and on several native or non-native Lamiaceae hosts. In earlier publications, it is usually referred to as *G. biocellatus*, but Scholler et al. (2016) showed in their study that *G. monardae* can be excluded from the wider *G. biocellatus* complex and is classified as its own species.

*Golovinomyces depressus* (Wallr.) V.P. Heluta was identified in two species (*Arctium lappa* 2010-0296 and *Echium maculatum* 2012-0627) based on ITS sequencing. This may indicate that *Echium maculatum* is a new host for the fungus *G. depressus*, although the morphological characteristics were not

enough to confirm this. In addition, pathogenicity was not tested to provide further proof. It is currently understood that *G. depressus* infects *Arctium* and *Centaurea* species in Asia, the Caucasus, Europe, and North America (Braun & Cook 2012), but not Boraginaceae plants such as *Echium* spp. In Finland, the known *G. depressus* observations are from *Arctium*, *Centaurea*, and *Onopordum* acting as host plants (Braun 1995; Rauhala 1957).

**BLUMERIA, NEOËRYSIPHE, PODOSPHAERA, AND SAWADAEA SPP.** One *Blumeria* sp., one *Neoërysiphe* sp., five *Podosphaera* spp., and two *Sawadaea* spp. were identified (Table 3). Among them, *Podosphaera* and *Sawadaea* are the only species that have fibrosin bodies (Fig. 4e) inside their conidia, which can be used as a supportive feature for identification based on morphological characteristics. If teleomorphs are present, the species in genus *Podosphaera* are the only ones that have a single ascus inside each chasmothecia (Fig. 4d). Among all PMCF, *Blumeria* is the only genus that is capable of infecting monocot plants. *Blumeria* spp. share a common morphological feature of having a bulbous swelling (Fig. 4f) that develops from the hyphae and forms the base of the conidium. The species identified in these four genera are PMCF that had been previously identified in Finland (Salo et al. 2019).

*Podosphaera fugax* (Penz. & Sacc.) U. Braun & S. Takam. was identified in two *Geranium* samples (*G. sanguineum* 1977-0512 and *G. pratense* 2001-0068) based on morphological characteristics as well as ITS sequence similarity. Knowledge of the known hosts of *P. fugax* (Braun & Cook 2012) was also used for species determination. Among ITS sequences from the fungus *Podosphaera pannosa* (Wallr.) de Bary isolated from three *Rosa* spp. (1969-0232, 1993-0721, and 1998-0600) there were differences at only a few nucleotides. All three *P. pannosa* sequences were 317 nucleotides in length but showed minor nucleotide polymorphisms among the analyzed isolates (1969-0232, 1993-0721, and 1998-0600). *P. pannosa* was also identified on a *Rosa virginiana* (1983-0565) herbarium sample based on morphological characteristics. *P. fugax* is known to infect *Geranium* species in Africa, Asia, the Caucasus, Europe, and North America, and it has been introduced into New Zealand (Braun & Cook 2012). *P. fugax* is also a common fungus on *Geranium* spp. in the wild in Finland (Ahti 1967; Braun



**Fig. 4.** Morphologically important characteristics of powdery mildew fungi. (a-g) The following are examples of structures observed among the 14 morphologically identifiable species of PMCF (host plant accession numbers are included): (a) a single conidiospore (1991-0137), bar = 20  $\mu\text{m}$ ; (b) a catenescence of conidia (1993-0230), bar = 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ; (c) a lobed appressorium (2006-0844), bar = 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ; (d) a chasmothecium and single ascus containing multiple ascospores (1983-0565), bar = 40  $\mu\text{m}$ ; (e) microconidia and fibrosin bodies inside them (2005-0017), bar = 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ; (f) a bulbous swelling (2009-0568), bar = 20  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and (g) a hyperparasite of powdery mildew (1995-0741), bar = 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

1995; Rauhala 1957). Takamatsu et al. (2010) placed both *P. fugax* and *P. pannosa* in the same Rosoideae group, as they seem to be evolutionarily closely related. *P. pannosa* has spread all over the world (Braun & Cook 2012) and has been found on several *Rosa* spp. in Finland (Braun 1995; Mäkinen 1965; Rauhala 1957).

*Podosphaera plantaginis* (Castagne) U. Braun & S. Takam. was identified from one plant of *Plantago lanceolata* (isolate 2006-0888) based on ITS sequence similarity. *P. plantaginis* is known to infect plants in Asia, the Caucasus, Europe, and North America (Braun & Cook 2012). The common host for the fungus in Finland is *Plantago lanceolata* (Braun 1995; Rauhala 1957; Jousimo et al. 2014). *Ampelomyces quisqualis* Ces. is a well-studied hyperparasitic fungus that infects *P. lanceolata* (Tollenaere et al. 2014) in Finland.

It grows inside the mycelial structures of the powdery mildew fungus (Fig. 4g) (Kiss et al. 2004). The ITS sequence of *A. quisqualis* was obtained in this study while sequencing the isolate from *Plantago major* 2006-0889. The *A. quisqualis* ITS sequence was deposited in ENA GenBank (ITS1: LT795000; ITS2: LT795001).

Taken together, the results of this study show that an area of six hectares can support a wide range of fungal populations, such as PMCF, when compatible host plants are present. Furthermore, the hyperparasitic fungus *A. quisqualis* sensu lato was commonly present based on microscope analysis. The 28 PMCF determined in this study are likely to represent just a subset of PMCF in Finland. However, they were isolated by one of the few surveys carried out in a botanical garden using morphological characteristics

and molecular methods for identification. The higher number of PMCF identified with ITS sequences relative to morphological characteristics is supported by a previous study carried out elsewhere (Cunnington et al. 2003). The results of this study also show that botanical gardens maintain not only the genetic diversity of plants but also their pathogens, such as hyperparasitic fungi, which may help to regulate the impact of plants and microbes in gardens.

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## SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

**Table S1.** Fungal isolates observed at the anamorph stage with a focus on their mycelia and conidia.

**Table S2.** Fungal isolates observed at the teleomorph stage with a focus on chasmothecia, asci, and ascospores.

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