

Plasmopara elegantissima sp. nov. (Oomycota, Peronosporales), a Downy Mildew Species Specialized to *Impatiens textori* (Balsaminaceae)

Young-Joon Choi^a , Marlena Görg^{b,c}, Hyeon-Dong Shin^d  and Marco Thines^{b,c,e} 

^aCollege of Natural Sciences, Department of Biology, Kunsan National University, Gunsan, South Korea; ^bDepartment for Biological Sciences, Institute of Ecology, Evolution and Diversity, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; ^cSenckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; ^dDivision of Environmental Science and Ecological Engineering, Korea University, Seoul, South Korea; ^eIntegrative Fungal Research Cluster (IPF), Frankfurt am Main, Germany

ABSTRACT

Over the past 15 years, downy mildew became the most destructive foliar disease in cultivated *Impatiens* species (Balsaminaceae) worldwide. A previous study had revealed that the causal agent was not *Plasmopara obducens* (Oomycota, Peronosporales) but *Plasmopara destructor* on *Impatiens walleriana*, and *Plasmopara velutina* on *Impatiens balsamina*. This hints to a relatively high degree of specialization of *Plasmopara* on Balsaminaceae. Therefore, it was the aim of the present study to perform multigene phylogenetic analysis and detailed morphological investigation for several Korean downy mildew samples parasitic to cultivated *I. walleriana*, and *I. balsamina*, but also to a northeast Asian wild plant, *Impatiens textori*. It was revealed that *I. textori* harbors a new species, which is introduced and described here as *Plasmopara elegantissima*.

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1. Introduction

The phylum Oomycota comprises ecologically diverse organisms of various degrees of complexity and diverse life histories [1,2]. The highest diversity of the Oomycota is in the family Peronosporaceae, containing ca. 900 species [3]. Within the Peronosporaceae, the vast majority of species is obligate biotrophic, causing downy mildew disease on numerous flowering plants, including economically relevant crops, such as aromatic herbs, beets, berries, cabbages, oilseed rape, onions, quinoa, radishes, roses, soybean, spinach, tobacco, and various ornamentals [4]. Most of the recent molecular phylogenetic and taxonomic studies paid attention to downy mildews affecting crops of economic value, leading to significant progress in their identification, taxonomy, and nomenclature [4]. For example, for 50 years the suggestion of Yerkes and Shaw [5] that the downy mildew pathogens affecting Chenopodiaceae plants, including beet, spinach, and quinoa, should all be included in “*Peronospora farinosa* (*Botrytis farinosa*)”, which has been proposed for rejection [6], has been widely followed by applied plant pathologists. However, recent multi-locus phylogenetic analyses have shown that the complex includes a variety of highly specialized and distinct species, such as *P. effusa* on spinach [7], *P. schachtii* on beet

[8], and *P. variabilis* on quinoa [9]. But also in other genera, such as *Hyaloperonospora*, new species were described for pathogens infecting economically important crops, for example, *Hyaloperonospora erucacae* on arugula [10] and *Perofascia macaicola* on maca [11].

Increasing global trade raises the risk of introduction of new downy mildew diseases, as exemplified by *P. belbahrii* on basil [12]. But also on sages [13] and balsamines [14,15] newly occurring downy mildew diseases were reported. *Impatiens* (Balsaminaceae) is one of the largest genera of flowering plants, covering about 900 species, which are distributed mainly in highlands and mountains of the Paleotropics, but extends with various species into parts of temperate Asia, Europe, and North America [16]. On two balsams, *Impatiens walleriana* and *I. balsamina*, which are popular ornamental plants grown worldwide, emerging downy mildew diseases have been reported. Since 2003 when the infection on cultivated *I. walleriana* appeared in the UK [17], this disease speedily spread worldwide over the past 15 years [14,15,18]. Except for a highly divergent species, *Plasmopara constantinescui* [19], all downy mildew agents parasitic on different species of *Impatiens* had been identified as *Plasmopara obducens* until this species complex was reexamined

CONTACT Young-Joon Choi  yjchoi@kunsan.ac.kr; Marco Thines  m.thines@thines-lab.eu

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and it was revealed that the downy mildew pathogen of European Impatiens, *P. obducens* s.str., was not conspecific with the downy mildew pathogens of cultivated Impatiens, which, consequently, were described as new species – *P. destructor* on *I. walleriana* and *Plasmopara velutina* on *I. balsamina* [14].

In Korea, downy mildew infections have been recorded from four species of *Impatiens*: *I. textori* [20], *I. noli-tangere* [21], *I. walleriana*, and *I. balsamina* [22]. In line with various studies (see references in [14]), the diseases were attributed to *P. obducens* [20–22], because among the different pathogen/host accessions there was no sequence variation in LSU rDNA region [22] and morphological differences were subtle [21]. However, the recent finding that each of the latter three hosts harbors a specialized species of *Plasmopara* [14], but also the potential overlap in host ranges reported recently [15] prompts to the necessity of a careful reexamination of the pathogens. Given the high host specificity known for *Plasmopara* species [14,23–26] and the high phylogenetic distance between *I. textori* and other *Impatiens* species that are host to downy mildew pathogens [27], it seemed likely that the downy mildew pathogen of *I. textori* is an undescribed species. Thus, the aim of the current study was to resolve the identity of the pathogens causing impatiens downy mildew in Korea, using detailed morphological and multi-locus phylogenetic investigations.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Herbarium specimens

In total, 30 downy mildew specimens originating from *I. balsamina*, *I. textori*, and *I. walleriana* were morphologically examined, and 10 specimens were selected for molecular phylogenetic analysis based on their morphology and host species. For comparison, the reference sequences of *Plasmopara* species originated from *Impatiens* plants were retrieved from GenBank. Information on the specimens sequenced in this study is shown in Table 1.

2.2. DNA extraction, PCR amplification, and sequencing

From the herbarium specimens, 5–20 mg of infected plant tissue was taken and ground in a mixer mill (MM2, Retsch, Germany), using 170 mg of glass beads (BioSpec Products, Bartlesville, OK, USA) of 1 mm diameter per sample. Genomic DNA was extracted using the MagListo 5M plant Genomic DNA Extraction Kit (Bioneer, Daejeon, Korea). Three highly variable regions, ITS1 rDNA, cytochrome *c* oxidase subunit II (*cox2*), and the spacer region between *cox2* and *cox1* genes (*coxS*) were amplified using oomycete-specific primers, as outlined previously [8,14,28]. Amplicons were visualized on 1.2% agarose gel, purified using an AccuPrep PCR Purification Kit (Bioneer), and sequenced by a DNA sequencing service (Macrogen, Seoul, Korea), with the primers used for amplification.

2.3. Molecular phylogenetic analysis

Sequences were edited with the DNASTar software package (DNASTar, Madison, WI, USA), version 5.05. Alignment of each locus was performed using MAFFT 7 [29] employing the Q-INS-i algorithm [30]. SequenceMatrix 1.7.8 [31] was used for concatenating individual gene sequences and for checking unusually similar or divergent sequences. Phylogenetic trees were constructed by two different methods, minimum evolution (ME) and maximum likelihood (ML) inference. ME analysis was done using MEGA 7.0 [32], with the default settings of the program, except for using the Tamura-Nei model instead of the maximum composite likelihood model. For ML analyses, 1000 rounds of random addition of sequences as well as 1000 fast bootstrap replicates were performed using RAxML 7.0.3 [33] as implemented in raxmlGUI 1.3 [34] using the GTRCAT variant.

2.4. Morphological analysis

Morphological characteristics of sporangiophores and sporangia were investigated using dried

Table 1. List of herbarium specimens sequenced in this study.

DNA no.	Herb. no.	Pathogen	Host plant	Geographic origin (Year)	GenBank Acc. No. ITS1/ <i>cox2</i> / <i>cox1</i> spacer ^a
YC22731	KUS-F22731	<i>Plasmopara velutina</i>	<i>Impatiens balsamina</i>	Korea; Gangneung (2007)	MK067070/MK067058/MK067082
YC23751	KUS-F23751	<i>Plasmopara velutina</i>	<i>Impatiens balsamina</i>	Korea; Yongin (2008)	MK067074/MK067062/MK067086
YC25940	KUS-F25940	<i>Plasmopara velutina</i>	<i>Impatiens balsamina</i>	Korea; Osan (2011)	MK067076/MK067064/MK067088
YC22732	KUS-F22732	<i>Plasmopara destructor</i>	<i>Impatiens walleriana</i>	Korea; Gangneung (2007)	MK067071/MK067059/MK067083
YC21824	KUS-F21824	<i>Plasmopara</i> sp.	<i>Impatiens textori</i>	Korea; Chuncheon (2006)	MK067072/MK067060/MK067084
YC23341	KUS-F23341	<i>Plasmopara</i> sp.	<i>Impatiens textori</i>	Korea; Hongcheon (2008)	MK067073/MK067061/MK067085
YC24170	KUS-F24170	<i>Plasmopara</i> sp.	<i>Impatiens textori</i>	Korea; Dongducheon (2009)	MK067075/MK067063/MK067087
D178	KUS-F19509	<i>Plasmopara</i> sp.	<i>Impatiens textori</i>	Korea; Hongcheon (2003)	MK067067/MK067055/MK067079
D179	KUS-F19566	<i>Plasmopara</i> sp.	<i>Impatiens textori</i>	Korea; Pyeongchang (2003)	MK067068/MK067056/MK067080
D201	KUS-F20250	<i>Plasmopara</i> sp.	<i>Impatiens textori</i>	Korea; Yangpyeong (2004)	MK067069/MK067057/MK067081

^aThe spacer region between *cox2* and *cox1* genes.

herbarium specimens. Photographs were taken at 100× or 200× for sporangiophores and 400× for sporangia and ultimate branchlets, using an AxioCam MRc5 digital camera mounted to a Zeiss Imager M2 AX10 microscope (Carl Zeiss, Jena, Germany). Measurements were done with the software AxioVision LE (Carl Zeiss Imaging Solutions, Munich, Germany) after calibration using a stage micrometer, and reported as follows; (minimum–standard deviation toward the minimum – $\frac{\text{mean}}{\text{standard deviation}}$ toward the maximum (–maximum) ($n = 50$).

3. Results

3.1. Molecular phylogenetic analysis

A phylogeny based on the concatenated alignment showed neither conflicting support nor a markedly different topology as compared to individual gene tree inferred from ITS1, *cox2*, and *coxS*. The final concatenated alignment had 625 total characters, including 29 variable characters, 23 of which were parsimony-informative. Since the dataset revealed no significant conflicts in the topologies derived from ML and ME analyses, only the tree from the ME inference is shown in Figure 1. In all

phylogenetic trees, the six *Plasmopara* samples from *I. textori* formed a well-supported group, which was related to *P. obducens*, *P. destructor*, and *P. velutina*. Even in the ITS1 rDNA sequences that cannot be used to discriminate among *P. destructor*, *P. obducens*, and *P. velutina*, *Plasmopara* sp. ex *I. textori* exhibited a single nucleotide substitution. In addition, the sequences of *Plasmopara* sp. ex *I. textori* were different at 7, 5, and 7 characters out of 203 characters of the *cox2* and at 11, 10, and 11 out of 227 in the *cox2*-1 spacer, as compared to *P. destructor*, *P. obducens*, and *P. velutina*, respectively. The Korean samples ex *I. balsamina* ($n = 3$) and *I. walleriana* ($n = 1$), clustered with the reference sequences of *P. velutina* and *P. destructor*, respectively, with high support values in both ME and ML analyses.

3.2. Morphological analysis

Measurements of morphological characteristics of *Plasmopara* species from four different species of *Impatiens* are summarized in Table 2. The main morphological characters differentiating *Plasmopara* sp. affecting *I. textori* was the height of sporangiophores, the length of the ultimate branchlets, and the breadth of sporangia. In *Plasmopara* sp., the

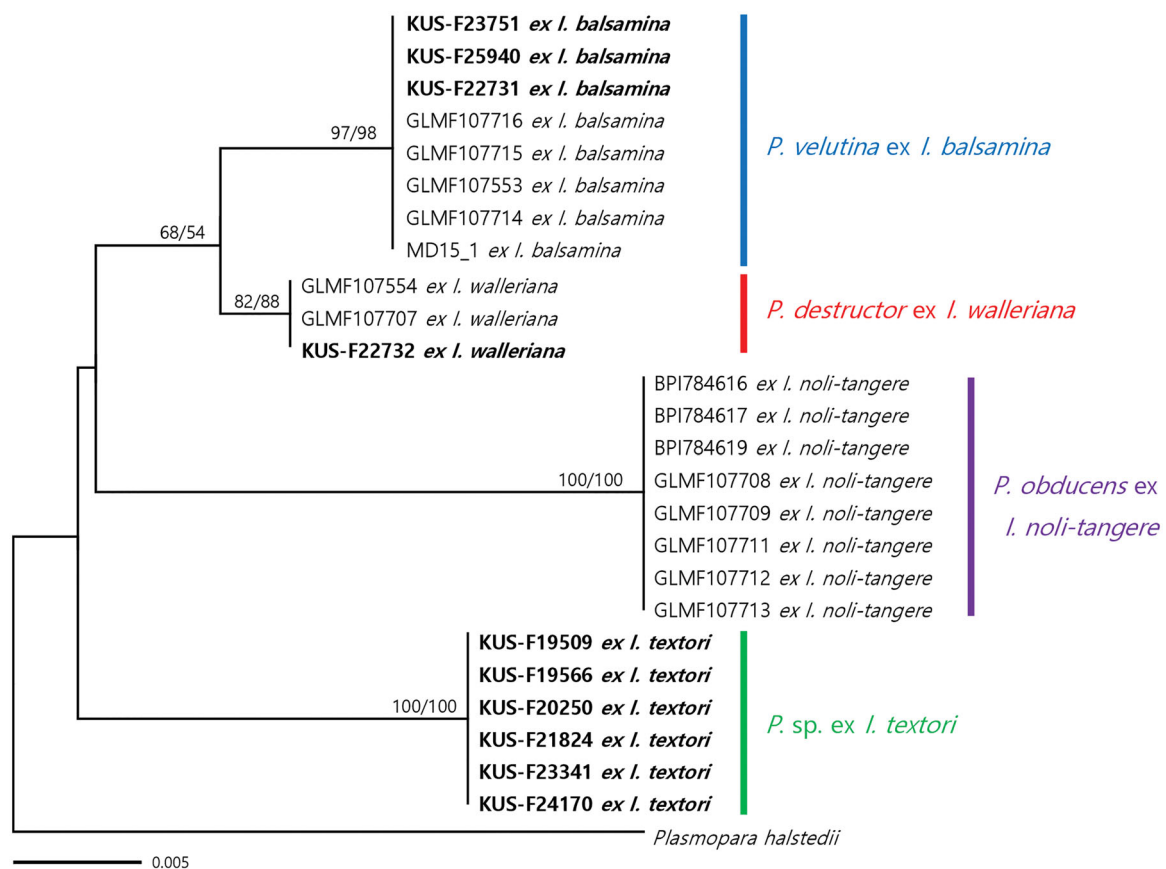


Figure 1. Minimum evolution tree based on a concatenated alignment of ITS1 rDNA, partial *cox2* mtDNA, and a spacer region between *cox2* and *cox1* genes. Bootstrap support values for minimum evolution and maximum likelihood analyses higher than 50% are given above the branches. The Korean specimens investigated in this study are highlighted in bold. The scale bar represents the number of nucleotide substitutions per site.

Table 2. Morphological characteristics of *Plasmopara* species parasitic on *Impatiens* species.

<i>Plasmopara</i> species	<i>P. sp.</i>	<i>P. obducens</i> ^a	<i>P. velutina</i> ^a	<i>P. destructor</i> ^a
Host species	<i>Impatiens textori</i>	<i>Impatiens noli-tangere</i>	<i>Impatiens balsamina</i>	<i>Impatiens walleriana</i>
Sporangia				
Length (µm)	(10.5–)15.4–17.6–19.8 (–23.9)	(9.6–)13.6–15.9–18.1 (–23.5)	(10.6–)14.9–17.3–19.6(–31.2)	(10.7–)13.7–15.9–17.9(–23.3)
Width (µm)	(9.7–)13.7– <u>15.3</u> –16.8(–19.8)	(8.5–)11.3– <u>13.3</u> –15.4(–15.5)	(9.1–)12.8– <u>14.6</u> –16.3(–22.9)	(8.5–)11.9– <u>13.7</u> –15.4 (–18.9)
Ratio of length/width	(1.00)1.07– <u>1.15</u> –1.24(–1.65)	(1.00)1.08– <u>1.20</u> –1.32(–1.76)	(1.01)1.09– <u>1.20</u> –1.31(–2.00)	(1.00)1.09– <u>1.21</u> –1.33(–1.69)
Ultimate branchlets				
Length (µm)	(4.2–)7.6– <u>10.0</u> –12.4(–17.9)	(3.7–)5.7– <u>7.8</u> –9.9(–14.2)	(3.9–)5.5– <u>7.4</u> –9.35(–16.6)	(3.2–)6.5– <u>9.0</u> –11.5(–16.7)
Sporangiophores				
Length (µm)	(250–)410–540–670(–90)	(90–)261–373–485(–659)	(209–)302–393–483(–650)	(189–)325–429–532(–728)
Height of first branching (µm)	(110–)230– <u>340</u> –450(–710)	(54–)124– <u>197</u> –271(–417)	(60–)127– <u>202</u> –277(–422)	(60–)142– <u>217</u> –292(–433)
Ratio of first branching/length	(0.30–)0.50– <u>0.63</u> –0.76(–0.85)	(0.19–)0.43– <u>0.53</u> –0.63(–0.80)	(0.16–)0.38– <u>0.51</u> –0.64(–0.79)	(0.24–)0.39– <u>0.51</u> –0.62(–0.71)

^aMeasurements of Görg et al. [14].

Numbers with the underlines indicate the average of the measurements.

height of sporangiophores was 541 µm on average, in contrast to those of *P. obducens* s.str., *P. destructor*, and *P. velutina*, which were less than 400 µm on average. The sporangial breadth was 15.3 µm on average in *Plasmopara* sp., wider than 13.0, 13.8, and 14.6 µm on average as measured for the other three respective species. This also resulted in a lower length to breadth ratio of 1.15 on average, as compared to the respective averages of 1.20, 1.21, and 1.20 in the other three species. The ultimate branchlets of were 10.0 µm long on average in *Plasmopara* sp., longer than those of *P. obducens* (av. 7.8 µm), *P. destructor* (av. 8.4 µm), and *P. velutina* (av. 8.0 µm). Thus, *Plasmopara* sp. ex *I. textori* can be easily distinguished from the other three species known to affect balsamines in Eurasia.

4. Discussion

The phylogenetic and morphological data of the present study demonstrated that *Plasmopara* sp. affecting *I. textori* is not conspecific with the three known species of *Plasmopara* parasitic on *Impatiens* species in Eurasia, *P. obducens* s.str., *P. destructor*, and *P. velutina*. These results support a previous study that *Plasmopara* species parasitic on *Impatiens* spp. exhibits a high degree of differentiation according to the host species [14]. In addition, it adds evidence to the recently re-appraised view that a narrow species concept reflects the evolutionary history of downy mildews much better than a broad species concept, as exemplified on other species complexes, such as the ones around *Bremia lactucae* [35–41], *Hyaloperonospora parasitica* [42–48], *Peronospora farinosa* [7–9,49], *Peronospora lamii* [12,13,50], and *Plasmopara halstedii* [24,26,51–53]. The downy mildew of *I. textori* is one of the most common downy mildew diseases throughout South Korea [21] and is common in China [54,55] and Japan [56] where the host plant is also widely distributed. Notably, the present result that the downy mildew pathogens of *I. textori* and *I. noli-tangere*

are distinct reflects the occurrence patterns of the disease on the host plants well. *I. textori* often grows together with *I. noli-tangere*, the host plant of *P. obducens*, and both prefer to moist to wet habitats, but in most of the cases, only *I. textori* exhibits downy mildew infection, while *I. noli-tangere* remains healthy and downy mildew incidences are still comparatively rare.

In Korea, the downy mildews of *I. balsamina* and *I. walleriana* have recently been reported [22]. In the present study, the downy mildew on *I. walleriana* and *I. balsamina*, which have previously attributed to *P. obducens*, were re-identified as *P. destructor* and *P. velutina*, respectively. Interestingly, Salgado-Salazar et al. [15] in a population genetics approach limited to a small region of the ribosomal cistron came to the conclusion that the three closely related species on *Impatiens*, *P. obducens*, *P. destructor*, and *P. velutina* were probably conspecific, as in the sequence stretch analyzed there were no clear-cut differences between *P. destructor* and *P. velutina* and they reported that there is some overlap in the morphology. However, this result is ambiguous, because (i) morphological characters can be significantly different even if there is some overlap, (ii) most parts of the ITS were considered in the population study, which has the issue of repeat-driven instability of ITS in downy mildews with pyriform haustoria [57], (iii) cloned sequences from a non-proofreading enzyme were used to determine sequence types, (iv) no dedicated measures have been taken to make sure that herbarium specimens used were not contaminated with spores of other, more recent collections. Considering also that downy mildew on cultivated *I. walleriana* has not been reported prior to this millennium, while the native pathogens, *P. obducens* (in Europe and probably North America), *Plasmopara* sp. in North-East Asia and *P. velutina* (in Asia) were present for decades before the epidemics, an invasion by a previously unrecognized species, such as in the case of *Pe. belbahrii* [12] or *P. muralis* [25] seems more

plausible. While given a dynamic host shift ability of obligate biotrophic pathogens [58], including downy mildews, it is conceivable that outside the native range the newly occurring pathogen, *P. destructor* is able to infect additional species of *Impatiens*, lumping the species on *impatiens* together would be a huge step backwards. The influential publication of Yerkes and Shaw [5] who favored a very broad species, hampered appropriate recognition and quarantine regulations for newly occurring pathogens, resulting in the too late recognition that newly occurring species were the cause of disease [4]. Thus, even in the event that population genetics studies should in the future reveal that *P. destructor* and *P. velutina* should rather be treated as subspecies because of significant admixture, it seems better to treat them as separate species, also as the evidence reported in this study rather supports recognition as independent species. As *I. walleriana* was not cultivated in Korea before the early 2000s when it has been imported for commercial purposes, it is conceivable that *I. walleriana* might have been accompanied by the pathogen when being introduced to Korea. In the case of *I. balsamina*, it is unclear from where the downy mildew species responsible for the present epidemic in Korea has originated. However, it seems plausible that the pathogen has been introduced rather recently, as this plant had been widely distributed throughout Korea for a long time, but there was no report of downy mildew incidence until 2007 [22]. Since the two cultivated balsamines are popular in outdoor gardens and indoor flowerpots in Korea, their diseases have the potential to cause significant economic losses in nurseries and landscape businesses, like in many other countries [14,15]. However, the causal agent of downy mildew on *I. textori* is deeply separated from the other downy mildew species on balsamines and unlikely to be of concern for the growing of ornamental balsamines, even though infection trials should probably be done to clarify the risk of a potential host jump.

5. Taxonomy

Based on the results of both the phylogenetic and morphological analyses, the downy mildew pathogen affecting *I. textori* is described below as a new species in the genus *Plasmopara*. The downy mildew specimens from *I. walleriana* and *I. balsamina* were confirmed as *P. destructor* and *P. velutina*, respectively, both of which are new to Korea.

Plasmopara elegantissima Y.J. Choi, Görg & Thines, *sp. nov.* MB 820725 (Figure 2)

Etymology: Referring to the elegant appearance of the sporangiophores of this species.

Description: Lesions commonly present mainly on leaves, but rarely on stems, vein-limited, poly-angular, frequently covering larger areas by coalescing; infected tissues become reddish, later turning necrotic. Down developing when infected leaf tissue is still alive, hypophyllous, whitish, consisting of agglomerated to scattered sporangiophores, often felt-like, dense. Haustoria intracellular, not branched, flask-shaped, symmetrical, 11–20 µm diam., with a stalk at the part of entry into the host cell, surrounded by sheaths of 0.5–2 µm thickness. Sporangiophores emerging through stomata, straight to substraight, (250–)410–540–670(–900) µm long; trunk straight, (110–)230–340–450(–710) µm long, 4–9 µm wide, a ratio of the length of sporangiophores to the length of trunk (1.23–)1.37–1.63–1.89(–2.91), base not or somewhat swollen, up to 13 µm wide, callose plugs commonly present; branches arising at right angle to the main axis, monopodial, branching 3 to 5(–6) orders; callose plugs frequently present. Ultimate branchlets in pairs or three, straight to slightly curved, (4.2–)7.6–10.0–12.4(–17.9) µm long, 1.5–2.5 µm wide at the base; tip truncate or cup-like, rarely swollen. Sporangia oblong, broadly ellipsoidal or ovoid, but sometimes nearly globose, (10.5–)15.4–17.6–19.8 (–23.9) µm long, (9.7–)13.7–15.3–16.8(–19.8) µm wide, a ratio of length to width (1.00–)1.07–1.15–1.24(–1.65), greatest width sub-median or median, tip round, base broadly round or subtruncate; pedicel absent or only a minute protuberance visible at the point of attachment to the sporangiophores; pore 2–5 µm wide, with a plug of 0.5–1.5 µm thickness, dissolving during germination. Zoospores releasing through an apical pore; encysted zoospores 8–10 µm diam., with thick wall, germinating by a germ tube, up to 750 µm long, sometimes branched 1–3 times. Resting organ not seen.

Diagnosis: Sporangiophores and ultimate branchlets longer and sporangia wider, as compared to *P. obducens*, *P. destructor*, and *P. velutina*.

Habitat: On living leaves of *I. textori* (Balsaminaceae).

Typus: KOREA; Dongduchoen-si; Sangbongam-dong; Mt. Soyo (37°56'40"N 127°05'11"E), on leaves of *Impatiens textori*, 22 June 2009, leg. Y.J. Choi & H.D. Shin, ZEVCFG0000000020 (holotypus), KUS-F24170 (isotypus).

Additional specimens for morphological investigation: KUS-F15905 (29 May 1999, Seochon-ri, Chuncheon), 19204 (11 Oct. 2002, Seochon-ri, Chuncheon), 19547 (4 Jun. 2003, Experimental Forest of Korea University, Yangpyeong), 19790 (7 Oct. 2003, Goeun-ri, Chuncheon), 19821 (7 Oct. 2003, Seochon-ri, Chuncheon), 20228 (26 May 2004, near Yeonhwa Temple, Bukbang-myon,



Figure 2. *Plasmopara* sp. on *Impatiens textori*. (A & B) Downy mildew symptoms on the lower and upper surface on *Impatiens textori*. (C & D) Sporangiophore; (E–H) Ultimate branchlets; (I–L) Sporangium. Scale bars: 100 μm for sporangiophores; 10 μm for ultimate branchlets and sporangia.

Hongcheon), 20223 (24 May 2004, Sangnam-myon, Inje), 20255 (1 Jun. 2004, Seosang-ri, Chuncheon), 20270 (1 Jun. 2004, Seochon-ri, Chuncheon), 20291 (4 Jun. 2004, near Sangdang fortress, Cheongju), 20310 (18 Jun. 2004, Experimental Forest of Kangwon National University, Hongcheon), 20343 (23 Jun. 2004, Mt. Cheongtae, Hoengseong), 20691 (10 Sept. 2004, Goeun-ri, Chuncheon), 20719 (18 Sept. 2004, near Yeonhwa Temple, Bukbang-myon, Hongcheon), 21144 (27 May 2005, Goeun-ri, Chuncheon), 21215 (6 Jun. 2005, Bukbang-myon, Hongcheon), 21267 (12 Jun. 2005, Ecological Park, Hongcheon), 21902 (22 Jun. 2006, Hoengseong Natural Recreation Forest, Hoengseong).

Plasmopara destructor Görg & Thines, Mycological Progress 16 (8): 797 (2017) [MB#820725]

Description: Sporangiophores emerging through stomata, hyaline, 200–700 μm long, base slightly swollen, branched monopodially 4–6 orders, ultimate branchlets were straight but often slightly curved, 3–15 μm long, sporangia globose to ovoid, hyaline, 10–25 \times 10–20 μm .

Specimen examined: KOREA; Gangneung-si; Gyeongpo-dong; near Gyeongpo provincial park (37°47'20"N 128°53'28"E), on leaves of *I. walleriana*, 26 July 2007, leg. Y.J. Choi & H.D. Shin, ZEVCFG0000000021 (KUS-F22732).

Habitat: On living leaves of *I. walleriana* (Balsaminaceae)

Plasmopara velutina Görg & Thines, Mycological Progress 16 (8): 797 (2017) [MB#820726]

Description: Sporangiophores emerging through stomata, hyaline, 200–700 μm long, bases not or

somewhat swollen; branched monopodially 4–6 orders; ultimate branchlets slightly curved, 5–14 µm long with truncate tip. Sporangia globose to ovoid, hyaline, 10–30 × 10–22 µm.

Specimen examined: KOREA; Gangneung-si; Gyeongpo-dong; near Gyeongpo Provincial Park (37°47'20"N 128°53'28"E), on leaves of *I. walleriana*, 26 July 2007, leg. Y.J. Choi & H.D. Shin, ZEVCFG0000000022 (KUS-F22731).

Habitat: On living leaves of *I. balsamina* (Balsaminaceae).

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YJC and HDS collected all downy mildew samples included in the present study.

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

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ORCID

Young-Joon Choi  <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-0909-4723>

Hyeon-Dong Shin  <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-7778-2747>

Marco Thines  <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-7740-6875>

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