

## ***Mycosphaerella* species occurring on *Eucalyptus globulus* in Portugal**

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**Abstract** *Mycosphaerella* leaf disease (MLD) is caused by species of *Mycosphaerella* and several anamorphic form genera that have been connected to *Mycosphaerella*. Until recently, MLD of eucalypts was largely ignored in Portugal. However, serious damage to *Eucalyptus globulus* has been reported since 1999 when frequent and severe defoliation of young trees was observed. The severity of this disease prompted a preliminary study of the *Mycosphaerella* species associated with major symptoms of a leaf blotch disease in commercial plantations of *E. globulus* in Portugal, which is presented here. The species were identified by molecular methods based on the ITS1-5.8S-ITS2 cluster, together with morphological characters. In addition to confirming the species previously recorded, *Mycosphaerella vespa* is reported for the first time from Portugal, while the status of *Mycosphaerella grandis* remains to be resolved.

**Keywords** *Ascomycetes* · ITS · *Mycosphaerella* leaf disease · Pathology · Ribosomal RNA operon

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