**Microbotryum scorzonerae (Microbotryaceae), new to China, on a new host plant**

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Abstract — A new Chinese record, *Microbotryum scorzonerae* on *Scorzonera albicaulis*, is provided. It was collected from Saihanwula National Nature Reserve, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, in northern China.

Key words — Microbotryales, *Microbotryum piperi*, smut fungi, taxonomy

A specimen of *Microbotryum* on *Scorzonera albicaulis* was collected from Saihanwula National Nature Reserve, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, in the north of China in 2008. This species, which is parasitic on floral heads of host plants belonging to the *Asteraceae* family, has been identified as *Microbotryum scorzonerae*, a species new to China. *Microbotryum scorzonerae* has never previously been reported with *S. albicaulis* as host.


Sori in the floral heads. Spore mass powdery, blackish-violet. Ustilospores when young agglutinated in loose, irregular groups, later single, globose, subglobose,
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ovoid, ellipsoidal or slightly irregular, 10–16 × 8.5–12.5 μm, light brownish-violet, sometimes paler at one side; wall finely reticulate, meshes 1–3 μm in diameter, muri 1–1.5 μm high, a few warts appear on the lower part of the muri as seen by SEM.


Previously, four species of smut fungi — Entyloma guaraniticum Speg. on Bidens pilosa L., Entyloma dahliae Syd. & P. Syd. on Dahlia pinnata Cav., Entyloma compositarum Farl. on Senecio formosanus Kitam. and Thecaphora trailii Cooke on Saussurea japonica (Thunb.) DC. — have been reported as occurring on host plants in the family Asteraceae in China (Guo 1991, 2000, 2009). Many more smut species remain to be discovered in the future in China. To date, eleven species of smut fungi have been recorded in Saihanwula National Nature Reserve (Zhang & Guo 2003), including another Microbotryum species, M. piperi (G.P. Clinton) Vánky on Polygonum divaricatum L.

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Literature cited

