1. PaDIL Species Factsheet

Scientific Name:
*Choanephora cucurbitarum* (Berk. & Ravenel) Thaxt.
(Zygomycota: Mucoromycotina: Mucorales: Choanophoraceae)

Common Name
Choanephora cucurbitarum

Image Library
New Zealand Biosecurity

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Landcare Research — Manaaki Whenua
http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/

MPI (Ministry for Primary Industries)
http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/
2. Species Information

2.1. Details

**Specimen Contact:** Eric McKenzie - mckenziee@landcareresearch.co.nz

**Author:** McKenzie, E.


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2.2. URL


2.3. Facets

**Commodity Overview:** Field Crops and Pastures

**Commodity Type:** 1 Other, Cucurbitaceous produce, Okra, Tomato, Tamarillo & Egg plant

**Distribution:** Oceania

**Groups:** Fungi & Mushrooms

**Host Family:** Chenopodiaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Malvaceae, Solanaceae

**Pest Status:** 2 NZ - Regulated pest

**Status:** 0 NZ - Unknown

2.4. Diagnostic Notes

**Disease**

Blossom blight and fruit rot. Dense white fungal growth visible on infected flowers and fruits, with dark brown 'pin-heads' when the fungus starts to produce spores. Can invade damaged tissues causing water-soaked leaf spots and, on cucurbits, a soft fruit rot. Especially common under wet, warm conditions.

**Morphology**

Colonies fast growing with abundant mycelium, white, becoming pale yellow. Sporangiophores 1–10 mm tall, 6–12 µm thick, non-septate, unbranched, hyaline, giving rise to up to 12 apical swellings (vesicles) at the top of the sporangiophore. Sporangia arise on short stalks from the apical vesicles at the top of the sporangiophores. The sporangia each contain a single spore but the spores do not readily separate from the sporangium wall and thus remain within the sporangia. In effect, the sporangia appear to be the spores (sporangiospores). The sporangia ('spores') are broadly fusiform or ellipsoid, (8–)12–20(–30) µm long, (5–)6–12(–18) µm wide, brown or reddish brown to pale brown, more or less distinctly longitudinally striate, subtended by a short, cylindrical pedicel.

2.5. References

3. Diagnostic Images

- Choanephora cucurbitarum blossom blight on eggplant flower
  *In Life:* E. McKenzie Landcare Research

- Choanephora cucurbitarum blossom blight on young eggplant fruit and flower
  *In Life:* E. McKenzie Landcare Research

- Choanephora infundibulifera on Hibiscus rosa-sinensis flower
  *In Life:* E. McKenzie Landcare Research

- Choanephora infundibulifera on Hibiscus rosa-sinensis flower
  *In Life:* E. McKenzie Landcare Research

- Choanephora infundibulifera on young okra fruit (Abelmoschus esculentus)
  *In Life:* E. McKenzie Landcare Research

- Choanephora cucurbitarum soft rot on bean pods (Phaseolus vulgaris)
  *In Life:* Jürgen Kranz EcoPort
Choanephora cucurbitarum infected bean pods (Phaseolus vulgaris)
*In Life:* Jürgen Kranz EcoPort

Choanephora cucurbitarum blight on young zucchini fruit
*In Life:* E. McKenzie Landcare Research

Choanephora cucurbitarum fruit rot on yellow straight neck squash (Cucurbita pepo)
*In Life:* Gerald J. Holmes North Carolina State University

Choanephora cucurbitarum on pumpkin flower
*In Life:* Keisotyo, 2004 Unknown

Choanephora cucurbitarum sporangia
*Sporangia:* E. McKenzie Landcare Research

Choanephora cucurbitarum sporangia
*Sporangia:* E. McKenzie Landcare Research

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