Scientific Name:
*Ustilago cynodontis* (Henn.) Henn.
Basidiomycota, Ustilaginomycetes, Ustilaginales, Ustilaginaceae

Common Name
Cynodon smut

Image Library
Smut Fungi of Australia

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2. Species Information

2.1. Details

**Specimen Contact:** Roger Shivas - roger.shivas@deedi.qld.gov.au  
**Author:** Roger Shivas  
**Citation:** Roger Shivas (2010) Cynodon smut (*Ustilago cynodontis*) Updated on 12/16/2010 Available online: PaDIL - http://www.padil.gov.au  
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2.2. URL


2.3. Facets

**Columella:** absent  
**Distribution:** ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC, WA  
**Host Family:** Poaceae  
**Peridium:** absent  
**Sorus position:** inflorescence  
**Sorus shape:** long cylindrical, irregular (includes naked sori)  
**Spore balls:** absent  
**Spore mass texture:** powdery  
**Spore shape:** globose or subglobose  
**Spore surface ornamentation:** smooth  
**Status:** Exotic establishment in Australia  
**Sterile cells:** absent

2.4. Other Names

*Sporisorium agropyri* Bag & D.K. Agarwal  
*Ustilago carbo var. cynodontis* Pass.  
*Ustilago cynodontis* (Pass.) Curzi  
*Ustilago segetum var. cynodontis* Henn.

2.5. Diagnostic Notes

**Sori** in the inflorescence, destroying the spikelets and covering the spikes with a dark brown dusty spore mass; sometimes infection is localised in the basal parts of the inflorescence, usually with abortive spikelets in its distal parts; immature sori often ±hidden by enveloping leaf sheaths. Infection systemic.

**Spores** globose to subglobose, 6.0–8.0 (–8.5) × 5.5–8.0 µm, yellowish brown to light olivaceous brown, smooth; in SEM with dense low warts. Immature spores often in readily separable chains, connected by minute hyaline hyphal remnants.

**Spore germination** 4-celled basidia (in 3 + 1 arrangement) producing successive lateral and terminal ovoid to long-ellipsoidal basidiospores. Basidiospores budding or germinating by hyphae on which lateral or terminal aerial sporidial systems develop.
3. Diagnostic Images

Ustilago cynodontis on Cynodon dactylon - BRIP 51207.  
**Field photo:** Leif Forsberg DEEDI

Ustilago cynodontis on Cynodon dactylon - BRIP 40244. Scale bar = 1 cm  
**Host symptoms:** Roger Shivas DEEDI

Ustilago cynodontis on Cynodon dactylon - BRIP 40244. Scale bar = 10 µm  
**Light micrograph:** Roger Shivas DEEDI

Ustilago cynodontis on Cynodon dactylon - BRIP 40244. Scale bar = 1 µm  
**Scanning electron micrograph:** Desley Tree DEEDI

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Results Generated:  
Saturday, December 26, 2020