

## Revisiones Generum Obscurorum Hyphomycetum: *Scoriomyces* Ellis and Saccardo and *Coccospora* Wallroth\*

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Examination of the types and related specimens of *Scoriomyces* and *Coccospora* show that both names are based on the sclerotial stage of an unidentified Myxomycete. The names *Scoriomyces* and *Coccospora* must be considered nomina dubia.

Keywords: *Scoriomyces*, *Coccospora*, taxonomy, hyphomycetes, sclerotia, Myxomycota.

*Scoriomyces* Ellis & Sacc. in Sacc. & Berlese. 1885. Atti real. Ven. Sci., Lett. Arti, ser. 6, 3: 728.

Type: *S. cragini* Ellis & Sacc. in Sacc. & Berlese, l.c.

Holotype: U.S.A.: New Jersey, Newfield, J.B. Ellis s.n., 1884 (NY).

*Coccospora* Wallroth. 1833. Flora Crypt. German. 2: 176.

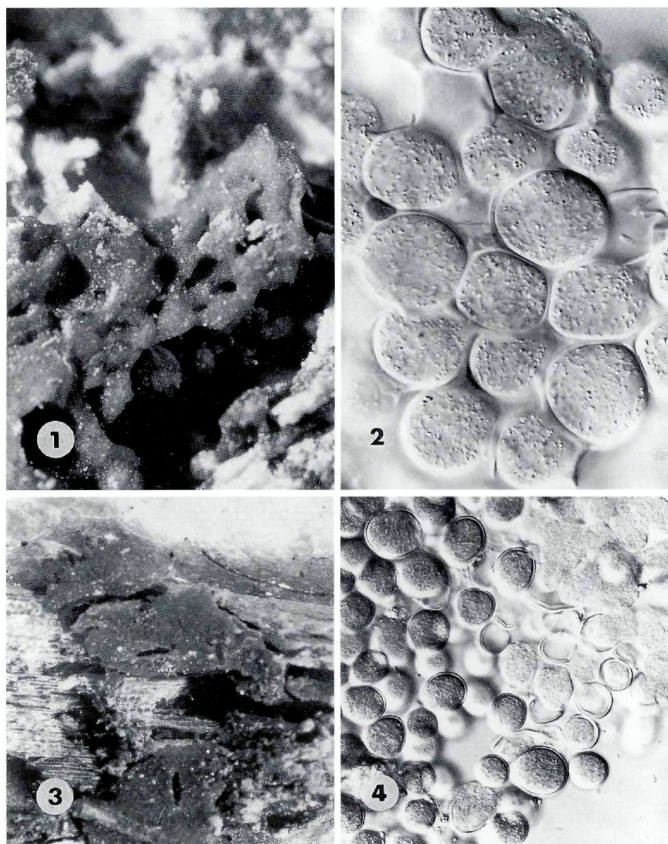
Type: *C. aurantiaca* Wallroth, l. c.

Holotype: “*Coccospora aurantiaca* W.” scr. Wallroth, presumed to have been collected in Thuringia, Germany in 1833, annotated as “No. 1544” by “S. C. Damon, Philadelphia en 1951” (STR).

Ellis and Saccardo (1885) described *Scoriomyces* as “anomalous...of doubtful affinity”, noting that it was probably an “abnormal or undeveloped state of some higher fungus”. The authors referred to *Coccospora* Wallr. The type material and additional specimens in NY represent the sclerotial state of a Myxomycete; the identity of the Myxomycete taxon is unknown. The fructifications are up to 2 mm diam, golden-yellow, waxy textured, with a coralloid appearance, and are composed of globose yellow lipid globules, in a hyaline

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\* See Seifert, K. A. & M. A. Vincent (1992). Sydowia 44(2): 307–320.



Figs. 1-4. – Type specimens of *Scoriomyces cragini* and *Coccospora aurantiaca*. – 1. *S. cragini*, fructification x 6. – 2. *S. cragini*, spores x 1000. – 3. *C. aurantiaca*, fructification x 8. – 4. *C. aurantiaca*, spores x 666.

membrane. The specimen was collected on wood under bark of *Rhus venenata* and in the earth among decaying roots around old stumps.

In the original description, Ellis and Saccardo noted that the mass of spores arose from “rhizomorphoid fibres”. The type specimen consisted of one thin piece of wood, the outer face of which was covered with golden- to reddish-brown, waxy rhizomorph-like strands

54–162  $\mu\text{m}$  diam. The rhizomorphs are of uncertain origin, probably not related to the coralloid sclerotia. The rhizomorph-like strands were not associated with other specimens of *S. cragini* in NY.

*Scoriomyces* should be considered a nomen dubium.

Examination of the holotype of *C. aurantiaca* Wallr., type species of *Coccospora*, indicated that *C. aurantiaca* and *S. cragini* probably represent the same organism. Damon and Downing (1954) suggested that *C. aurantiaca* was more aptly placed in the genus *Sclerotium*, and considered it similar to *S. applanatum* Schw. Examination of *S. applanatum* revealed several notable differences. First, the fruiting masses were composed of fused, hexagonal sections approximately 84  $\mu\text{m}$  diam. Each section was composed of golden-yellow spores interspersed with a dark golden-yellow, hypha-like network. The filaments of the network had narrow lumens, lacked septa, were dichotomously branched and had thick, striately roughened walls. The fructification was similar to a pseudoaethelium produced by Myxomycete taxa. A similar type of organization was not found in specimens of *C. aurantiaca* and *S. cragini*.

*Coccospora*, based on *C. aurantiaca*, also must be considered a nomen dubium.

Ellis and Galloway (1890) described a second species as *Scoriomyces andersonii* Ellis & Galloway. According to the published description, this species differs from *S. cragini* primarily in the larger size of the spores, which measure 35–55  $\mu\text{m}$  diam.

## References

- Damon, S. C. & M. H. Downing (1954). Taxonomic studies in the genus *Coccospora*. – *Mycologia* 46: 209–221.  
Ellis, J. B. & B. T. Galloway (1890). New species of fungi. – *J. Mycol.* 6: 33.

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