



***Gesasha* (Halosphaeriales, Ascomycota), a new genus with three new species from the Gesashi mangroves in Japan**

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Abstract: A new genus, *Gesasha* Abdel-Wahab & Nagahama, and three new species therein are described and illustrated from Gesashi mangroves, Okinawa, Japan. Molecular phylogenetic analyses of the partial SSU and LSU rDNA placed the three new species into a clade distantly related to morphologically similar fungi with a high statistical support in the Halosphaeriales, Sordariomycetidae, Sordariomycetes, Ascomycota. The new genus is characterized by hyaline to light-brown, immersed to erumpent coriaceous ascomata, persistent asci with a thickened apical pore with a cytoplasmic retraction below the ascus apex and uni or bi-celled, globose to widely ellipsoidal ascospores with or without ephemeral, amorphous polar to sub-polar appendages.

Keywords: *Aniptodera*, *Halosarpheia*, marine fungi, phylogenetics, subtropical.

Introduction

The order Halosphaeriales currently has 126 species in 53 genera (Jones et al. 2009). Members of Halosphaeriales are usually found in freshwater, marine and mangrove habitats on various submerged substrates, and generally possess a pseudoparenchymatous centrum, subsequently breaking up into catenophyses, mostly with deliquescent asci and appendaged ascospores. During a short visit to Gesashi mangroves, Okinawa, Japan we collected 30 samples of decayed wood, which yielded 25 marine fungi (unpublished data) including three new fungi which are described

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