

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

Te Whare Wananga o te Upoko o te Ika a Maui



COPY

September 5, 1997

Dr. Barbara M. Thiers
Curator, Cryptogamic Herbarium
New York Botanical Garden
Southern Blvd. at 200th St.
Bronx, New York 10458
Tel. #001-212-220-8777

Dear Dr. Thiers,

For some time now Ann and I have been working with Nils Lundqvist (Sweden) and Laura Lorenzo (Argentina) on a new species of Podospora, P. austrohemisphaerica. Ann and I have succeeded in culturing it and recently have shown that it is heterothallic - to our knowledge the only heterothallic species of Podospora. Nils has the HOLOTYPE in Stockholm (a field-collected sample of herbivore dung that was incubated in a laboratory moisture chamber). We, on the other hand, have some beautiful material that is the result of a fortuitous cross between 2 single-ascospore-initiated strains from geographically different dung collections. The ascospores are difficult to germinate as are the conidia of the Phialophora anamorph, in fact the latter may have a spermatial role instead. The long and short of all this is that we don't have mating strains from the same collection and a HOLOTYPE is already established. Also our 2 mating strains happen to be those that we sent to ATCC and CBS a year ago -- at that time not realizing that they were actually mating strains of a heterothallic species (we had assumed homothallism). Now we have a beautiful freeze-dried axenic culture of the new species featuring good fertile perithecia --- and what to do with it. Well, we have decided to send the Fungal Genetics Stock Center the strains also, in hopes that someone might work on the genetics of the species -- and also we are seeking to deposit the results of that cross with you at the Garden as an excellent record of the perithecia produced. Hopefully, you will agree to access the specimen and will send us your accession number so that we can include it in our publication. In addition to the herbarium specimen, we are enclosing an information sheet on the mating strains involved, the mating medium and the manner in which the specimen was prepared. Since we are sending off the living culture material to the FGSC at the same time, we are enclosing also that portion of the correspondence with them that may be of interest to you.

I will be in New Zealand until Sept. 15th and Ann and I can be reached at Email address <dmahoney@matai.vuw.ac.nz>. After that I can be reached in southern California at Email address <74473.1145@compuserve.com>. My address in California is Biology Dept., CSULA, 5151 State Univ. Dr., L.A. CA 90032.

Thank you for dealing with our material.
Sincerely,