

Hyphodiscaceae in Aotearoa New Zealand

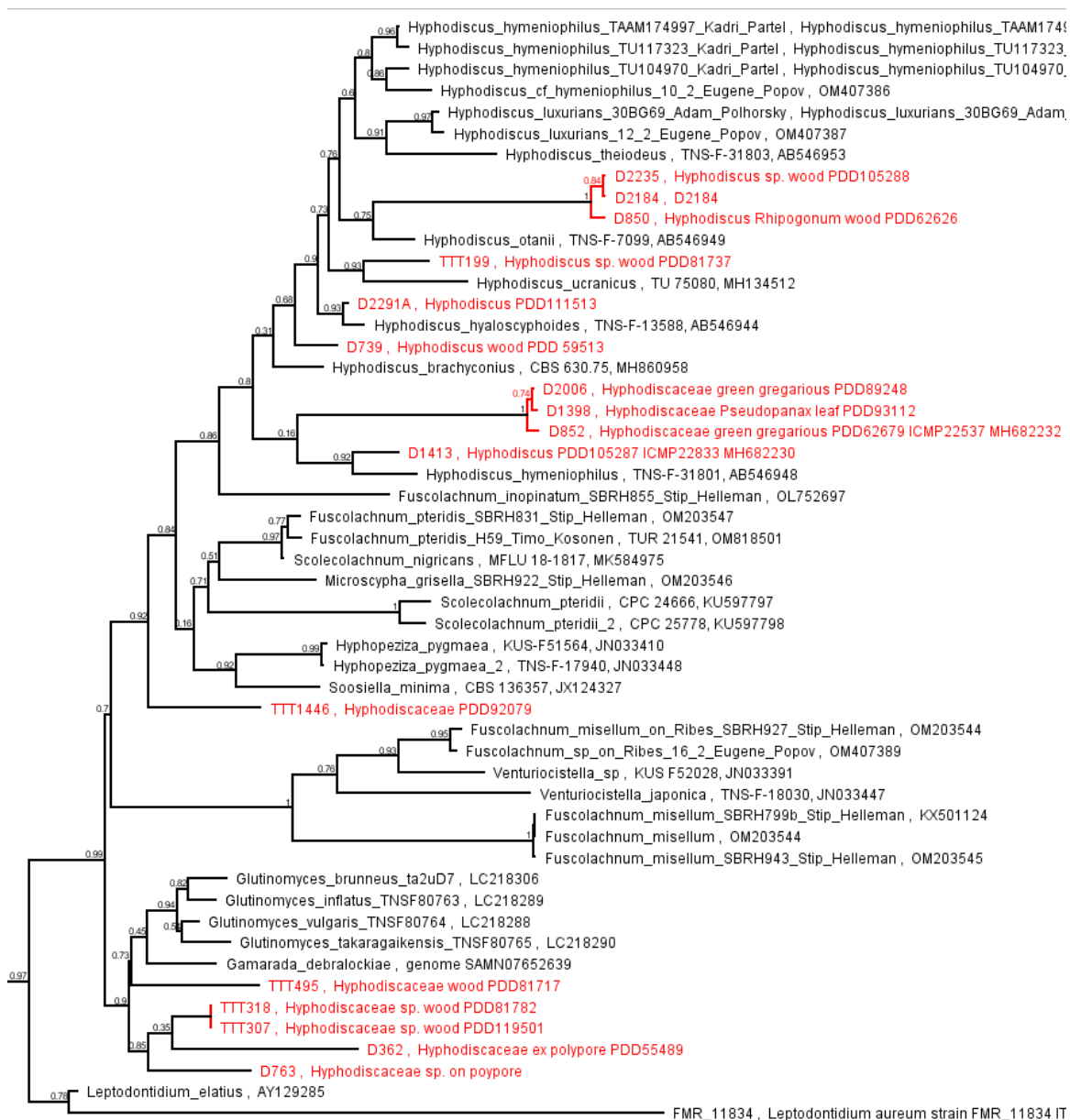
P.R. Johnston, March 2022

Hyphodiscaceae was named by Ekanayaka et al. (2019). Previous authors had recognised a phylogenetic clade more or less equivalent to *Hyphodiscaceae*, but had not formally named it (e.g. Han et al. 2004, Johnston et al. 2019).

Having apothecia with hairs meant that *Hyphodiscus* had traditionally been treated as *Hyaloscyphaceae*, but recent molecular phylogenies have shown that fungi with hairy apothecia are scattered across the *Helotiales*. Amongst these, *Hyphodiscaceae* is characterised by having a gelatinous ectal excipulum, short hairs with coarse warts, and small unicellular ascospores (Han et al. 2004).

No species of *Hyphodiscaceae* have been reported for Aotearoa New Zealand but DNA sequencing from New Zealand specimens shows that there are at least eleven unnamed species present here. All species have small, more or less sessile, pale coloured apothecia, poorly developed hair-like elements, gelatinous ectal excipulum (often highly gelatinous and *Cyathicula*-like), small asci (<50 µm long) and ascospores (mostly less than 5 µm long).

The ITS tree shows the New Zealand specimens in red, *Hyphodiscaceae* clade sister to *Leptodontidium*.



Han et al. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.funbio.2013.11.004>

Ekanayaka et al. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5943/mycosphere/10/1/7>

Johnston et al. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s43008-019-0002-x>