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Sphaeropsis tip blight disease of Austrian pine in urban greenery

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An extent of the damage of Austrian pine trees was evaluated in urban greenery in selected sites in Slovak Republic during the years 2004–2005. Fungi *Sphaeropsis sapinea* (Fr.: Fr.) Dyko & B. Sutton (syn. *Diplodia pinea* (Desm.) J. Kickx fil) and *Pestalotia* sp. were diagnosed on all observed trees. Symptoms of the disease were recorded. *S. sapinea* was isolated successfully from needles and from cone scales. The growth rate of hyphae of mycelium and the mean daily growth were evaluated on three types of cultivated media at different temperatures. The highest mean daily growth of mycelium was recorded on maltose agar at 25°C after 24 hours of cultivation (31.7 mm). Conidia of *S. sapinea* and *Pestalotia* sp. on water agar began to germinate after 3 and 2 hours, respectively. After 6 hours the mean germination rate of conidia of *S. sapinea* was 81.75% (from cone) and 89.3% (from needles); for *Pestalotia* it was 88.5%.

Keywords:

Sphaeropsis sapinea; *Pinus nigra*; *Pestalotia*; Slovak Republic

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