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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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***Diatrype stigma* and *D. whitmanensis* associated with canker and dieback of Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia* L.) trees in Iran.** F. AHMADYOUSEFI-SARHADI, H. MOHAMMADI and S. PANAHANDEH. *Department of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture, Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman, P.O.Box: 76169-14111, Kerman, Iran.*
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Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia* L.) is a shrub or small deciduous tree in the family Elaeagnaceae that can grow in various provinces of Iran. During 2018–19, a number of surveys for fungi associated with canker and dieback of Russian olive trees were conducted in Southern provinces of Iran. Samples were collected from branches of trees showing disease symptoms and fungal isolations were made from necrotic wood tissues on potato-dextrose-agar (PDA) supplemented with streptomycin sulphate. In this study 15 isolates of Diatrypaceous fungi were obtained from symptomatic branches. Isolates were placed onto 2% water agar amended with autoclaved pine needles and incubated under a 12-h daily photoperiod for 3-5 weeks to induce sporulation. Based on morphological characteristics and phylogenetic analysis of the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) nrDNA and a partial sequence of the β -tubulin gene, isolates were identified as *Diatrype stigma* (8 isolates) and *D. whitmanensis* (7 isolates). Pathogenicity of these species was verified by inoculation of detached shoots of Russian olive trees under controlled conditions. Both species were pathogenic and caused significant wood discoloration on inoculated shoots 40 days post-inoculation. *Diatrype stigma* was more virulent, based on the mean lengths of wood discolorations, than those of *D. whitmanensis*. Our study is the first report on the occurrence and pathogenicity of *D. stigma* and *D. whitmanensis* on Russian olive trees in the world.