

Distribution and phylogeography of the genus *Mattirolomyces* with a focus on the Asian *M. terfezioides* haplotypes (#64948)

1

First submission

Guidance from your Editor

Please submit by **7 Dec 2021** for the benefit of the authors (and your \$200 publishing discount) .



Structure and Criteria

Please read the 'Structure and Criteria' page for general guidance.



Custom checks

Make sure you include the custom checks shown below, in your review.



Raw data check

Review the raw data.



Image check

Check that figures and images have not been inappropriately manipulated.

Privacy reminder: If uploading an annotated PDF, remove identifiable information to remain anonymous.

Files

Download and review all files from the [materials page](#).

11 Figure file(s)
1 Table file(s)
2 Raw data file(s)

! Custom checks

DNA data checks

- ! Have you checked the authors [data deposition statement](#)?
- ! Can you access the deposited data?
- ! Has the data been deposited correctly?
- ! Is the deposition information noted in the manuscript?



Structure and Criteria

Structure your review

The review form is divided into 5 sections. Please consider these when composing your review:

1. BASIC REPORTING
2. EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN
3. VALIDITY OF THE FINDINGS
4. General comments
5. Confidential notes to the editor

 You can also annotate this PDF and upload it as part of your review

When ready [submit online](#).

Editorial Criteria

Use these criteria points to structure your review. The full detailed editorial criteria is on your [guidance page](#).

BASIC REPORTING

-  Clear, unambiguous, professional English language used throughout.
-  Intro & background to show context. Literature well referenced & relevant.
-  Structure conforms to [PeerJ standards](#), discipline norm, or improved for clarity.
-  Figures are relevant, high quality, well labelled & described.
-  Raw data supplied (see [PeerJ policy](#)).

EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

-  Original primary research within [Scope of the journal](#).
-  Research question well defined, relevant & meaningful. It is stated how the research fills an identified knowledge gap.
-  Rigorous investigation performed to a high technical & ethical standard.
-  Methods described with sufficient detail & information to replicate.

VALIDITY OF THE FINDINGS

-  Impact and novelty not assessed. *Meaningful* replication encouraged where rationale & benefit to literature is clearly stated.
-  All underlying data have been provided; they are robust, statistically sound, & controlled.
-  Conclusions are well stated, linked to original research question & limited to supporting results.



The best reviewers use these techniques

Tip

Example

Support criticisms with evidence from the text or from other sources

Smith et al (J of Methodology, 2005, V3, pp 123) have shown that the analysis you use in Lines 241-250 is not the most appropriate for this situation. Please explain why you used this method.

Give specific suggestions on how to improve the manuscript

Your introduction needs more detail. I suggest that you improve the description at lines 57- 86 to provide more justification for your study (specifically, you should expand upon the knowledge gap being filled).

Comment on language and grammar issues

The English language should be improved to ensure that an international audience can clearly understand your text. Some examples where the language could be improved include lines 23, 77, 121, 128 – the current phrasing makes comprehension difficult. I suggest you have a colleague who is proficient in English and familiar with the subject matter review your manuscript, or contact a professional editing service.

Organize by importance of the issues, and number your points

1. Your most important issue
2. The next most important item
3. ...
4. The least important points

Please provide constructive criticism, and avoid personal opinions

I thank you for providing the raw data, however your supplemental files need more descriptive metadata identifiers to be useful to future readers. Although your results are compelling, the data analysis should be improved in the following ways: AA, BB, CC

Comment on strengths (as well as weaknesses) of the manuscript

I commend the authors for their extensive data set, compiled over many years of detailed fieldwork. In addition, the manuscript is clearly written in professional, unambiguous language. If there is a weakness, it is in the statistical analysis (as I have noted above) which should be improved upon before Acceptance.

Distribution and phylogeography of the genus *Mattirolomyces* with a focus on the Asian *M. terfezioides* haplotypes

Jie Wei¹, Tine Grebenc², Xuan Zhang³, Si-Ming Xiang⁴, Yongjun Fan^{Corresp. 5}

¹ Forestry College, Inner Mongolia Agricultural University China, Huhhot, China

² Slovenian Forestry Institute, Slovenian Forestry Institute, Večna pot 2, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia

³ Baotou teachers college, Baotou teachers college, Inner Mongolia University of Science and Technology, China, Baotou, China

⁴ Baotou teachers college, Baotou teachers college, Inner Mongolia University of Science and Technology, China, Baotou, China

⁵ School of Life Science and Technology, School of Life Science and Technology, Inner Mongolia University of Science and Technology, China, Baotou, China

Corresponding Author: Yongjun Fan
Email address: fanyj1975@163.com

Mattirolomyces is an edible commercial sequestrate genus that is globally distributed. Of the genus's five described species, *Mattirolomyces terfezioides* is the most common in Asia. Recent attempts to locate *M. terfezioides* outside its current distribution area in China documented the first records in areas of poplar trees with the lowest known temperature and precipitation averages for this species. This peculiar ecology was not reflected in the species' morphological features or phylogenetic positioning in the genus. The first attempt at applying the phylogenetic network approach in *Mattirolomyces* revealed that its geographic origin was in Asia-Pacific areas prior to frequent long-distance migration events. Based on recent areas of study, we found that the collections from Inner Mongolia and the Shanxi province were similar to European collections. Other Asian haplotypes were more basal, supporting the idea that *M. terfezioides* originated from this area in China and was subsequently transported to Europe. Exploring *M. terfezioides*' ecology and potential to grow with poplars also increases its potential for cultivation and consumption in central and eastern China, a currently underexploited opportunity that deserves further ethnomycological investigations.

Distribution and phylogeography of the genus *Mattirolomyces* with a focus on the Asian *M. terfezioides* haplotypes

Jie Wei¹, Tine Grebenc², Xuan Zhang³, Si-Ming Xiang³, Yong-Jun Fan⁴

¹School of Life Sciences, Inner Mongolia University, Huhhot, China

²Slovenian Forestry Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

³Baotou Teachers' College, Inner Mongolia University of Science and Technology, Baotou, China

⁴School of Life Science and Technology, Inner Mongolia University of Science and Technology, Baotou, China

Corresponding Author:

Yongjun Fan¹

Qingshan District, Baotou, Inner Mongolia, China

Email address: fanyj1975@163.com

ABSTRACT

Mattirolomyces is an edible commercial sequestrate genus that is globally distributed. Of the genus's five described species, *Mattirolomyces terfezioides* is the most common in Asia. Recent attempts to locate *M. terfezioides* outside its current distribution area in China documented the first records in areas of poplar trees with the lowest known temperature and precipitation averages for this species. This peculiar ecology was not reflected in the species' morphological features or phylogenetic positioning in the genus. The first attempt at applying the phylogenetic network approach in *Mattirolomyces* revealed that its geographic origin was in Asia-Pacific areas prior to frequent long-distance migration events. Based on recent areas of study, we found that the collections from Inner Mongolia and the Shanxi province were similar to European collections. Other Asian haplotypes were more basal, supporting the idea that *M. terfezioides* originated from this area in China and was subsequently transported to Europe. Exploring *M. terfezioides*' ecology and potential to grow with poplars also increases its potential for cultivation and consumption in central and eastern China, a currently underexploited opportunity that deserves further ethnomycological investigations.

Keywords: *Mattirolomyces terfezioides*, desert truffle, Inner Mongolia, phylogeograph

33

34 INTRODUCTION

35 The genus *Mattirolomyces* (Tuberaceae, Pezizales) was called the “Mattiolo fungus” by
 36 Fisher in 1938, since Mattiolo was the first to describe the species, which he called
 37 *Choiromyces terfezioides*, back in 1887 (Fisher, 1938). The type specimen was first collected
 38 from clay agricultural soils in a non-typical ecological location in Piemonte, northern Italy, and
 39 was at that time considered a potential partner of *Prunus avium* (Mattiolo, 1887).
 40 *Mattirolomyces* is an ascomycetous genus and all known species of the genus form sequestrate to
 41 hypogeous sporocarps (Fisher, 1938). Currently, five species in the genus *Mattirolomyces* have
 42 been shown to have an intriguing geographical distribution. The genus type species
 43 *Mattirolomyces terfezioides* (Mattir.) E. Fisch was recorded in Europe and Asia; *M. spinosus*
 44 (Harkn.) Kovács, Trappe & Alsheikh in North America and Pakistan; *M. mulpu* Kovács, Trappe
 45 & Claridge in Australia; *M. austroafricanus* (Marasas & Trappe) Kovács in South Africa; and *M.*
 46 *mexicanus* Kovács, Trappe & Claridge in Mexico. The distribution of these five species suggest
 47 a wide geographical (presumably global) distribution of the genus (Kagan-Zur et al., 2014) with
 48 most records coming from eastern and southeastern Europe (Glejdura & Kunca, 2012; Kagan-
 49 Zur et al., 2014; Assyov & Slavova, 2016).

50 The desert regions of the southern hemisphere have low and variable average rainfall and
 51 high summer temperatures. *Mattirolomyces* spp. and other desert truffles have broad
 52 geographical, botanical, and cultural attributes that have made them regularly hunted and
 53 harvested for food since prehistoric times (Trappe et al., 2010). In Europe and Asia, however,

this species is rarely recognized as a significant commercial species (Boa, 2004). *Mattirolomyces* spp. sporocarps are traditionally collected, sold, and consumed under the name *Terfezia terfezioides* (Mattir.) Trappe, a synonym of *Mattirolomyces terfezioides*. Despite its value as a mycorrhizal species and culinary delicacy, this species is not well-known in the northern hemisphere (Kovács *et al.*, 2007). Most available collections of *M. terfezioides* are from Hungary (Europe) and northeastern China, namely Beijing, Hebei Province, and Shanxi Province. Most of the Chinese collections date several decades back with the most recent being from 1986 (Wang *et al.*, 2017). The economic and culinary value of the Chinese of the of the Chinese collections have not yet been evaluated. Furthermore, this species has been considered long-lost in China by many mycologists.

We were motivated by a recently discovered *M. terfezioides* collection from the desert areas of Inner Mongolia, China to revive the study of the Chinese genus, characterize the current ecological span of the species, and prepare a morphology-based description of the Chinese collection. Due to a low number of records and available nucleotide sequences, no phylogeographic insight into the genus is currently available. Therefore, we aimed to position the Chinese collections of *M. terfezioides* in a phylogenetic network of the whole genus, focusing on the relationship between the Chinese collections and the collections from other areas worldwide, in order to ultimately hypothesize the genus's geographic origin.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study site and sampling

The most temperate continental part of China, Inner Mongolia, has a cold semi-arid (BSk) to cold desert (BWk) climate (*Peel et al., 2007*). Although the occurrence of *Mattirolomyces* was not previously recorded in this area, the genus was found in most of its neighboring provinces, which indicated its potential for fruiting in Inner Mongolia as well. Sporocarps were primarily sought for in ecosystems that were suitable for *Mattirolomyces* (*Kagan-Zur & Akyuz, 2014*). When selecting sampling microlocations, we targeted the known ectomycorrhizal partner sites with pines and black locusts (*Kagan-Zur & Akyuz, 2014*), as well as young plantations of *Populus alba* L. var. *pyramidalis* Bunge at various locations in the Baotou area, Inner Mongolia, China, between September and October 2018 and 2019.

The main climatic characteristics of the broader area where *M. terfezioides* was repeatedly collected were: an elevation of about 1,070 m in the surveyed area, average temperature of around 8.5°C, lowest temperature of minus 27.6°C, and highest temperature of 40.4°C. The average annual rainfall in this area over the last 18 years is 301.6 mm (the minimum rainfall was 175.9 mm in 2005, and the maximum rainfall was 465.2 mm in 2003). The average annual rainfall in 2018 and 2019 was 364.8 mm and 327.6 mm, respectively, according to data from Inner Mongolia Meteorology. The soils are sandy, hyphal aggregates that connected the roots with above ground parts of the plants, and the sporocarps of this fungus developed from the hyphal aggregates.

Sporocarps were collected by racking the soils where surface cracks indicated their potential presence, generally following Castellano *et al.*'s (2004) procedure. All sporocarps were photographed *in situ* with a Canon EOS 60D camera (Canon, Tokyo Japan), then dried in a

forced-air dryer and kept in the Herbarium and Fungarium of Baotou Teachers's College under accession numbers Fan0273.

Morphological observation

Macro- and microscopic characters were analyzed using a stereomicroscope (Motic K400, Motic Asia, Hong Kong) and light microscope (Motic BA410E with a Moticom2506 camera, Motic Asia, Hong Kong) following the list of characters found in Kovács *et al.* (2011). For comparison, we used Melzer's reagent and Cotton Blue chemical reactions. Scanning electron microscopy of spores was done on a desiccated and platinum-palladium coated material using Hitachi E-1010 (Tokyo, Japan), and examined and photographed with a Hitachi S-530 (Tokyo, Japan).

DNA extraction, PCR amplification, and sequencing

DNA extraction, PCR, and sequencing were carried out according to Wang *et al.* (2017), except PCR amplification was performed using Taq PCR Master Mix (Biobasic, Ontario, Canada). PCR products were purified and sequenced at the Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chengdu, Sichuan, China. Sequences were deposited in GenBank with the accession numbers listed in Table 1.

Phylogenetic analyses

Available and complete nuclear rDNA ITS sequences from the genus *Mattiolomyces* were

retrieved from GenBank (*Benson et al., 2013*) and UNITE databases (*Kõljalg et al., 2013*) on December 12, 2019. We conducted a nucleotide search using the basic local alignment search tool (BLAST) with our representative sequence to trace additional sequences that were potentially misnamed in the searched databases. A local *Mattirolomyces* spp. nuclear rDNA ITS sequence database was built based on available and reliable sequences, and we selected environmental parameters from papers where sequences were published or directly from online databases (Table 1), with meteorological data from the latest FLUXNET synthesis dataset, the FLUXNET2015 database (<http://fluxnet.fluxdata.org/data/fluxnet2015-dataset/data-processing/>).

DNA sequences were assembled in BioEdit v5.0.9 (<https://bioedit.software.informer.com>). MEGA7 (*Kumar et al., 2015*) was used for manipulation of sequences, and internal MEGA7 plug-ins were used for sequence alignment (ClustalW), testing for the best nucleotide substitution model (ModelTest), maximum likelihood phylogenetic analysis (ML phylogenetic analysis), and construction of the phylogenetic tree. Kimura's 2-parametric model was selected as the best for a distance calculation of a given dataset. In order to evaluate the stability of the ML evolutionary tree topology, 1,000 bootstrap repetitions were run. Using the Bayesian method, we calculated Bayesian inference with MrBayes v. 3.1.2 (*Ronquist & Huelsenbeck, 2003*) and an HKY+G model. Four Markov chains were run for two runs from random starting trees for 1 million generations, until the split deviation frequency value < 0.01 . Every 100th generation was sampled. The Bayesian inference tree was visualized in FigTree 1.4.2. Branches that received bootstrap from $ML \geq 60\%$ and Bayesian posterior probabilities (BPP) ≥ 0.95 were considered significantly supported.

For the phylogenetic network analysis, the same nucleotide dataset was realigned in MAFFT v. 7.304b (Kato & Standley, 2013) and analyzed with a Median joining approach in Network5 (Bandelt et al., 1999). The phylogenetic network constructed in Network5 was modified and annotated in the GNU General Public License program Inkscape 0.91 (https://inkscape.org/release/inkscape-0.91/).

Determining soil physical and chemical properties

The soil samples were taken from the immediate vicinity of the fruiting sporocarps to a depth of 10 cm. Soil pH was measured in 1M KCl (1;5 w/v). Organic C and total N were analyzed using the CHNS-analyzer system (Elementar Analysen systeme GmbH, Hanau, Germany) with the burning method at 450 and 1,250 °C, respectively (Liu et al., 2012). We determined total organic matter, available phosphorus content, and available potassium as well as the total content of water soluble salts following the standardized operation procedures (Pansu & Gautheyrou, 1965).

RESULTS

Taxonomy

Over two years of hunting for hypogeous fungi in *Mattirolomyces*-like habitats, we collected two independent collections made up of a total of 32 sporocarps, all from *Populus alba* var. *pyramidalis* plantations.

A morphological description of the collections from Inner Mongolia resemble

Mattirolomyces terfezioides (Mattir.) E. Fisch., as described by Fischer (1938). *Ascomata* (fresh specimens, Figure 1A) were hypogeous or subepigeous, 4-5 cm in diam., subglobose to irregular massy, white, surface smooth to scabrous, lobed and furrowed; *gleba* solid, spongy with minute pockets, white with narrow white veins (Figure 1C). *Taste and odor* were strongly sweet when fresh. *Sclerotia* as hyphal aggregates, attached with the base of the sporocarps, dark brown, 0.5-1.0 cm in diam. (Figure 1B). *Paraphyses* were absent.

Microscopic features: *peridium* thin with 120-280 μ m thickness, no clear differentiation from the *gleba*, composed of inflated hyphae and irregular, hyaline cells; *gleba* composed of interwoven septate hyphae 7.5-11(20) μ m broad, with some free hyphal ends; *asci* randomly arranged in *gleba*, 8- or 10-spored, hyaline, globose to ellipsoid, pockety, saccate, cylindrical or clavate, (55) 65-95(117) $\times$ (26) 35-45 (60) μ m, sessile or occasionally sub-stipitate with a short stalk, disintegrating with age, thin walled, readily separable from *gleba* hyphae, nonamyloid (Figure 1D and Figure 1E); *ascospores* hyaline to pale yellow, globose, (12) 14-19 (22) μ m in diam. excluding the ornamentation (Figure 1D and Figure 1E); ornamentation of blunt spines connected in an irregular alveolate reticulum, 1-4 μ m high, mostly have a de Bary bubble and are uniguttulate, walls 1.5-2 μ m thick (Figure 1F). *Sclerotia*: attached to the ascoma and the surface of the roots. *Aroma* of mature sporocarps was pleasantly sweet.

In terms of *ecology*, all collections were found in the vicinity of *Populus alba* L. ~~var.~~ *pyramidalis*. Soils were sandy to finely sandy with a history of extensive management practices. Soils have relatively high water soluble salt content (1.29 g kg⁻¹), slightly basic pH (7.34), 1.49 g kg⁻¹ of total nitrogen, 46.4 mg kg⁻¹ of available phosphorus, and 29.82 g kg⁻¹ of organic matter.



The average annual precipitation for collections from Table 1 indicate that the collections from the desert regions of Inner Mongolia were more similar to European collections, Mediterranean collections from several countries, and Continental collections from Hungary, than to other Asian collections. The Inner Mongolian collections were from sites with larger winter/summer temperature differences and lower winter averages when compared to the other collections included in this study (Figure 2).

Phylogenetic analysis

Bayesian and ML phylogenetic analyses resulted in strongly-supported, topologically identical phylogenetic trees with clusters containing collections from Inner Mongolia together with other *M. terfezioides* from China, Hungary, Italy, and South Africa (Figure 3).

A phylogenetic network analysis (Figure 4) separated all five recognized taxa in the genus *Mattirolomyces* with an expected higher diversity in *M. terfezioides*. The high distance from the outgroup (*Elderia arenivaga*) to the genus *Mattirolomyces* indicated a poor selection, yet the most optimal one regarding the available recent taxa and their sequences. At the base of the *Mattirolomyces* cluster, three lineages were disclosed. The first lineage led to three clusters: one directed to South Africa with *M. austroafricanus*, the second with a more basal position of *M. spinosus* from south Asia (the collection was from Pakistan), and a phylogenetically close collection from the United States, with a distinct sub-cluster of closely-related *M. mexicanus* from Mexico and distantly-related (based on the comparison of the number of mutated sites) *M. mulpu* from Australia. For all four mentioned recent taxa, the number of available nucleotide

sequences was low. The third lineage formed a cluster of *M. terfezioides* that showed higher intraspecific diversity and a recognizable geographic pattern with more basal haplotypes from China, followed by collections from S. Korea. At this point of evolution, there was a jump of haplotypes from Asia (China) to Europe (Hungary, Italy, France), and no supported intra-Europe geographic pattern was recognized.

DISCUSSION

Mattirolomyces terfezioides is a commonly-collected edible hypogeous fungus best known for its traditional use in the desert regions of the southern hemisphere (Trappe *et al.*, 2010). Although it has been used for culinary purposes as far back as in ancient Persia (*ibid.*), its recent distribution outside its optimal ecology has not been explored. There are two well-recognized areas of distribution: the Mediterranean and Pannonian basin in Europe (Kagan-Zur *et al.*, 2014; Kovács *et al.*, 2001) and Beijing, along with neighboring regions in China. The taxonomic characteristics of the Inner Mongolian collections fit well in the concept of the *Mattirolomyces terfezioides* morphological species (Fischer, 1938; Mattiolo, 1887) and also the phylogenetic species (Díez *et al.*, 2002).

We present the first example of a global phylogenetic network study of the genus *Mattirolomyces* and the significant distribution pattern in *M. terfezioloides*. Phylogenetic networks are known to give a better insight into species ecology and distribution (Figure 4), an approach frequently used for its ability to visualize evolutionary relationships between nucleotide sequences and depict microevolution events such as the geographical distribution of

populations (*Huson & Bryant, 2006*). The geographic distribution of *Mattirolomyces* indicate that the origin of the genus was the current Asia-Pacific areas prior to frequent long-distance migration events, one of which brought *M. terfezioloides* to eastern and northeastern China. Based on the ecology of recently studied areas, the collections from Inner Mongolia and the Shanxi province were both similar to all European collections and also shared the same node in the phylogenetic networks. This supported the idea that climatic conditions were an important evolutionary drive in this species, and that *M. terfezioides* in Europe originated from this area in China, Asia. *M. terfezioloides* haplotypes from Europe appeared to from more terminal leaves on the network, indicating their more recent arrival to this area, which is additionally supported by the unresolved haplotype distribution between two main suitable habitats: Mediterranean areas and the Pannonian basin (*Kovács et al., 2001*). The observed diversification and lack of any further geographic or ecological microevolutionary structure in the European haplotypes in the more terminal leaves of the network additionally support the theory of *M. terfezioloides*' recent arrival to this area and/or lack of evolutionary pressure.

Our collections originated from the continental steppe areas of Inner Mongolia, China, an area classified as BSk according to the Köppen-Geiger climate classification, and where climate-related indicators point towards a severe spatial desertification risk (*Spinoni et al., 2014*). Presently, the area still experiences little rainfall with a low average yearly precipitation and lower average yearly temperatures and winter extremes (>5 degrees lower) compared to any other known *Mattirolomyces terfezioides* area. Our findings indicated that this species survives in dryer and colder conditions, at least outside its fruiting period, than previously reported

(Gógán Csorbainé et al., 2009), and are becoming further endangered due to projected future climate changes (He et al., 2019). The same collections also showed ecological discrepancies from other currently known species' ecologies. *Mattirolomyces terfezioloides* is usually found under *Robinia pseudoacacia* L., but rarely under artificially planted *Diospyros kaki* Thunb. or *Prunus avium* (L.) L. in diverse families of Leguminosae, Ebenaceae, and Rosaceae in southern and central Europe and northern China (Fischer, 1938; Bratek et al., 1996; Wang et al., 2017). *R. pseudoacacia* is native to the Southern Appalachian and Ozark Mountains of the United States (Huntley, 1990), and was introduced to Europe, Asia, Australia, South America, and Africa mainly as an ornamental plant, or was cultivated to revegetate disturbed sites or for agricultural and commercial uses in recent centuries (Kereszet, 1988). Its mycorrhiza with *Mattirolomyces terfezioloides* is most likely secondary since phylogeographically basal haplotypes of *M. terfezioloides* originated from Asia, not North America. As far as we know, this is the first study that shows that *M. terfezioloides* associates with *Populus alba*, a tree species in the family of Salicaceae with a wide distribution in Europe and central Asia (Palancean et al., 2018). This is another example of a host plant of *M. terfezioides* forming a dual mycorrhiza with the ratio between ectomycorrhiza and arbuscular mycorrhiza depending on specific soil conditions (Neville et al., 2019). Asian *Populus* spp. are most likely the primary mycorrhizal host for *M. terfezioloides*. Since the European poplar species are most closely related to the Asian species (Cervera et al., 2005), they are a potential source of *M. terfezioloides* inoculum for Europe.

In addition to climate change, recent industry, urbanization, and other land use conversion factors are threatening the survival of *M. terfezioloides* in the wild, and maybe the reason for its

long-lost status in China. *Populus* spp. have only recently become the dominant species in northern China and are mainly used for the restoration of degraded arid and semi-arid landscapes, combating desertification, and drought resilience strategies (FAO, 2016). All *Populus*-planted areas are sites where *M. terfezioides* has potential to grow. These areas may also serve to protect and preserve this rare desert fungus, as long as suitable agricultural practices for its cultivation are developed and supported, especially in rural, arid, and semiarid areas. However, *M. terfezioides* in China, especially among the Mongol people, remains underexploited and would require further ethnomycological investigation of its history in order to fully develop agricultural practices and consumption habits. *M. terfezioloides* could become an excellent model not only to develop local economy in rural areas, but also to highlight the importance of non-timber forest-related products in otherwise industrial forest tree plantations.

CONCLUSION

The first record of *M. terfezioides* showed its distribution in Inner Mongolia outside its current distribution area in China with the lowest known temperature and precipitation averages for this species. Our first attempt at phylogenetic network analysis in the genus *Mattirolomyces* revealed its geographic origin was in Asia-Pacific areas prior to frequent long-distance migration events. *M. terfezioides* originated from Inner Mongolia and the Shanxi province of China, Asia and was subsequently transported to Europe. Exploring *M. terfezioides*' ecology and potential to grow with poplars also increases its potential for cultivation and consumption in central and eastern China. This is a completely underexploited possibility among Mongols in China, and it

deserves further ethnomycological investigation. Ecological investigations of *M. terfezioides* in arid areas of China should be carried out in the near future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Dr. Xiaojuan Huang for their help with meteorological data collection.

FUNDING

The study was financially supported by the Natural Science Foundation of Inner Mongolia (No. 2020MS03001), the Educational Commission of Inner Mongolia (No. NJYT-18-A21), Science and technology project of Inner Mongolia (No. 2019GG002), the Research fund for young teachers of College of Forestry, Inner Mongolia Agricultural University. Slovenian Partner was co-financed by the research project J4-1766 “Methodology approaches in genome-based diversity and ecological plasticity study of truffles from their natural distribution areas” and the Research Program in Forest Biology, Ecology and Technology (P4-0107) of the Slovenian Research Agency.

REFERENCES

- Assyov, B., Slavova, M. 2016. First Bulgarian collections of *Mattirolomyces terfezioides* (Pezizaceae), a potentially valuable hypogeous fungus. *Phytol. Balcan*, 22(3), 303-307.
- Bandelt, H.J., Forster, P., Röhl, A. 1999. Median-joining networks for inferring intraspecific phylogenies. *Mol. Biol. Evol.*, 16, 37-48. DOI: 10.1093/oxfordjournals.molbev.a026036.
- Benson, D.A., Cavanaugh, M., Clark, K., Karsch-Mizrachi, I., Lipman, D.J., Ostell, J., et al. 2013. GenBank. *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 41(D1), D36-D42. DOI: 10.1093/nar/gks1195.
- Boa, E. 2004. Wild edible fungi: a global overview of their use and importance to people. Non-

wood Forest Product series No. 17. FAO Publication, Rome, pp. 147. ISBN 92-5-105157-7.

Bratek, Z., Jakucs, E., Boka, K., Szedlay, G. 1996. Mycorrhizae between black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and *Terfezia terfezioides*. *Mycorrhiza*, 6, 271-274. DOI:10.1007/s005720050136.

Castellano, M.A., Trappe, J.M., Luoma, D.L. Sequestrate fungi. In: Foster, M.S., Mueller, G.M., Bills, G.F. (Eds), 2004. Biodiversity of Fungi: Inventory and Monitoring Methods. Academic Press, Burlington, pp. 197-213. https://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr772.pdf.

Cervera, M.T., Storme, V., Soto, A., Ivens, B., Van Montagu, M., Rajora, O.P., Boerjan, W. 2005. Intraspecific and interspecific genetic and phylogenetic relationships in the genus *Populus* based on AFLP markers. *Theor. Appl. Genet.*, 111(7), 1440-1456. DOI: 10.1007/s00122-005-0076-2.

Díez, J., Manjon, J.L., Martin, F. 2002. Molecular phylogeny of the mycorrhizal desert truffles (*Terfezia* and *Tirmania*), host specificity and edaphic tolerance. *Mycologia*, 94, 247-259. DOI: 10.1080/15572536.2003.11833230.

FAO. 2016. Poplars and other fast-growing trees - renewable resources for future green economies. Synthesis of Country Progress Reports. 25th Session of the International Poplar Commission, Berlin, Germany pp., 92-93.

Fischer, E. Klasse Ascomycetes, Reihe Euascales. 1938. Unterreiche VIII. Tuberineae. In: Engler, A., Harms, H. (Eds.), Die natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien V. Wilhelm Engelmann Verlag, Leipzig pp., 39.

Glejdura, S., Kunca, V. 2012. First record of *Mattiolomyces terfezioides* from Slovakia—the northernmost locality in Europe. *Catathelasma*, 14, 5-9. <https://www.academia.edu/17455198/>.

330 GógánCsorbainé,  Illyés, Z., Dimény, J., Merényi, Z., Bratek, Z. 2008. *Choiromyces*
331 *meandriiformis* and *Mattirolomyces terfezioides*: peculiar truffles with new perspectives.
332 *Micologia Italiana*, 38(1), 21-28. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/234108264>.
333 He, W.P., Zhao, S.S., Wu, Q., Wan, S. 2019. Simulating evaluation and projection of the climate
334 zones over China by CMIP5 models. *Climate Dyn.*, 52(5-6), 2597-
335 2612.DOI:10.1007/s00382-018-4410-1.
336 Huntley, J.C. 1990. *Robinia pseudoacacia* L. black locust. In: Burns, R.M., Honkala, B.H. (tech
337 coords), Silvics of North America. Volume 2. Hardwoods. Agriculture Handbook no. 654.
338 *Forest Service*, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, pp. 755-761.
339 DOI:10.1007/978-3-319-02541-4_10.
340 Huson, D.H., Bryant, D. 2006. Application of phylogenetic networks in evolutionary studies.
341 *Mol. Biol. Evol.*, 23(2), 254-267. DOI: 10.1093/molbev/msj030.
342 Kagan-Zur, V., Akyuz, M. Asian Mediterranean desert truffles. In Kagan-Zur, V., Roth-Bejerano,
343 N., Sitrit, Y., Morte, A. (Eds.), 2014. Desert Truffles. Springer, Berlin, pp. 159-171.
344 DOI:10.1007/978-3-642-40096-4_11.
345 Kagan-Zur, V.; Roth-Bejerano, N.; Sitrit, Y.; Morte, A. 2014. Desert Truffles. Springer,
346 *Berlinpp.*, 397. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-642-40096-4.
347 Katoh, K., Standley, D.M. 2013. MAFFT multiple sequence alignment software version 7:
348 improvements in performance and usability. *Mol. Biol. Evol.*, 30(4), 772–78. DOI:
349 10.1093/molbev/mst010.
350 Keresztesi, B. 1988. Black locust: the tree of agriculture. *Outlook on Agriculture*, 17(2), 77-85.
351 DOI:10.1177/003072708801700207.
352 Kovács, G.M., Jakucs, E., Bagi, I. 2007. Identification of host plants and description of sclerotia

of the truffle *Mattirolomyces terfezioides*. *Mycol. Progress*, 6, 19-26.DOI:10.1007/s11557-006-0520-y.

Kovács, G.M., Trappe, J.M., Alsheikh, A.M., Hansen, K., Healy, R.A., Vági, P. 2011. *Terfezia* disappears from the American truffle mycota as two new genera and *Mattirolomyces* species emerge. *Mycologia*, 103(4), 831-840. DOI: 10.3852/10-273.

Köljalg, U., Nilsson, R.H., Abarenkov, K., Tedersoo, L., Taylor, A.F.S., Bahram, M. 2013. Towards a unified paradigm for sequence-based identification of Fungi. *Mol. Eco.*, 22(21), 5271-5277. DOI: 10.1111/mec.12481.

Kovács, G.M., Rudnóy, S., Vágvolgyi, C., Lásztity, D., Rácz, I., Bratek, Z. 2001. Intraspecific invariability of the internal transcribed spacer region of rDNA of the truffle *Terfezia terfezioides* in Europe. *Folia. Microbiol.*, 46(5), 423-426.DOI: 10.1007/BF02814433.

Kumar, S., Stecher, G., Tamura, K. 2016. MEGA7: molecular evolutionary genetics analysis version 7.0 for bigger datasets. *Mol. Biol. Evol.*, 33(7), 1870-1874.DOI: 10.1093/molbev/msw054.

Liu, Y., Shi, G., Mao, L., Cheng, G., Jiang, S., Ma, X.,An,L., Du,G., Johnson,N., Feng, H. 2012. Direct and indirect influences of 8yr of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilization on Glomeromycota in an alpine meadow ecosystem. *New Phytologist*, 194(2), 523-535.DOI: 10.1111/j.1469-8137.2012.04050.x.

Mattirollo, O. 1887. Illustrazione di trenuove specie di TuberaceeItaliane. Mem dellaReale Accad Sc Torino (Secondaserie), 38, 377-393.

Neville, J., Tessier, J.L., Morrison, I., Scarratt, J., Canning, B., Klironomos, J.N. 2002. Soil depth distribution of ecto-and arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi associated with *Populus tremuloides* within a 3-year-old boreal forest clear-cut. *App. So. Eco.*, 19(3), 209-216.

PII:S0929-1393(01)00193-7.

Palancean, I., Alba, N., Sabatti, M., de Vries, S.M.G. 2018. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for common walnut (*Populus alba*). *European Forest Genetic Resources Programme* (EUFORGEN). European Forest Institute, Bonn 6 pages. ISBN 978-952-5980-44-8.

Pansu, M., Gautheyrou, J. 2006.  Handbook of Soil Analysis-Mineralogical, Organic and Inorganic Methods. *Springer-Verlag*, Berlin Heidelberg New York, pp. 339. ISBN: 978-3-540-31210-9.

Peel, M.C., Finlayson, B.L., McMahon, T. 2007. Updated world map of the Köppen-Geiger climate classification. *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.*, 4(2), 439-473. DOI: 10.5194/hess-11-1633-2007.

Ronquist, F., Huelsenbeck, J.P. MrBayes 3: 2003. Bayesian phylogenetic inference under mixed models. *Bioinformatics*, 19, 1572-1574. DOI: 10.1093/bioinformatics/btg180.

Spinoni, J., Vogt, J., Naumann, G., Carrao, H., Barbosa, P. 2015. Towards identifying areas at climatological risk of desertification using the Köppen–Geiger classification and FAO aridity index. *Int. J. Climatol.*, 35(9), 2210- 2222. DOI:10.1002/joc.4124.

Trappe, J.M. 1971.  A synopsis of the Carbomycetaceae and Terfeziaceae (Tuberales). *Trans. Br. mycol. Soc.*, 57(1), 85-92. DOI: 10.1016/S0007-1536(71)80083-9.

Trappe, J.M., Kovács, G.M., Claridge, A.W. 2010. Comparative taxonomy of desert truffles of the Australian outback and the African Kalahari. *Mycol. Progress*, 9(1), 131-143. DOI: 10.1007/s11557-009-0612-6.

Wang, X.J., Liu, P.G., Sun, L.H. 2017. Molecular and morphological data confirmed the presence of the rare species *Mattirolomyces terfezioides* in China. *Plant Diversity*, 39, 89-

93.DOI: 10.1016/j.pld.2016.10.002.

Figure legend

Fig. 1. A) Sporocarps of *M. terfezioloides*; B) Sclerotium attached with sporocarps of *M. terfezioloides*; C) Gleba of sporocarps; D, E) Asci and spores; F) Spores with blunt spines.

Fig. 2. Average monthly precipitation (left) and average monthly temperature (right) for the Chinese (Baotou) (black solid line), other Asian (dark grey), and European (light gray) collections of *Mattirolomyces terfezioloides*, as listed in Table 1.

Fig. 3. Phylogram of *Mattirolomyces* based on the sequence dataset of the complete ITS region. Bootstrap values (ML) / posterior probabilities (from Bayesian inference) are shown above or beneath individual branches. Only bootstrap values larger than 60 and posterior possibilities over 0.95 are shown.

Fig. 4. A rooted phylogenetic network of *Mattirolomyces* based on the sequence dataset of the complete ITS region. Black dots represent recent taxa, gray dots represent ancestral stages / nodes. Values on mutation vectors represent the number of mutations between two nodes. Names of existing taxa and their geographic origin (country of collections) are given. Phylogenetic network was constructed and tested with a Median joining approach.

Fig. 5. A rooted phylogenetic network of *Mattirolomyces* based on the sequence dataset of the complete ITS region. A rooted phylogenetic network of *Mattirolomyces* based on the sequence dataset of the complete ITS region. Black dots represent recent taxa, gray dots represent ancestral stages / nodes. Values on mutation vectors represent the number of mutations between two nodes. Names of existing taxa and their geographic origin (country of collections) are given.

426 Phylogenetic network was constructed and tested with a Median joining approach.

427

428 **Table 1.** The list of obtained nuclear rDNA ITS sequences from the genus *Mattirolomyces* and
 429 location of the collection, climate, vegetation, and other site data. The list of obtained nuclear
 430 rDNA ITS sequences from the genus *Mattirolomyces*, retrieved from GenBank or UNITE
 431 database, are included in the study. Species name and GenBank accession numbers were
 432 supplemented with location of the collection, climate, vegetation, and other site data, if available.

433

434 
 435

436

Figure 1

The sporocarps morphology, spore structure and scanning electron microscope picture of spore

A Sporocarps of *M. terfezioloides*; B Sclerotium attached with sporocarps of *M. terfezioloides*; C Gleba of sporocarps; D, E Asci and spores; F Spores with blunt spines.

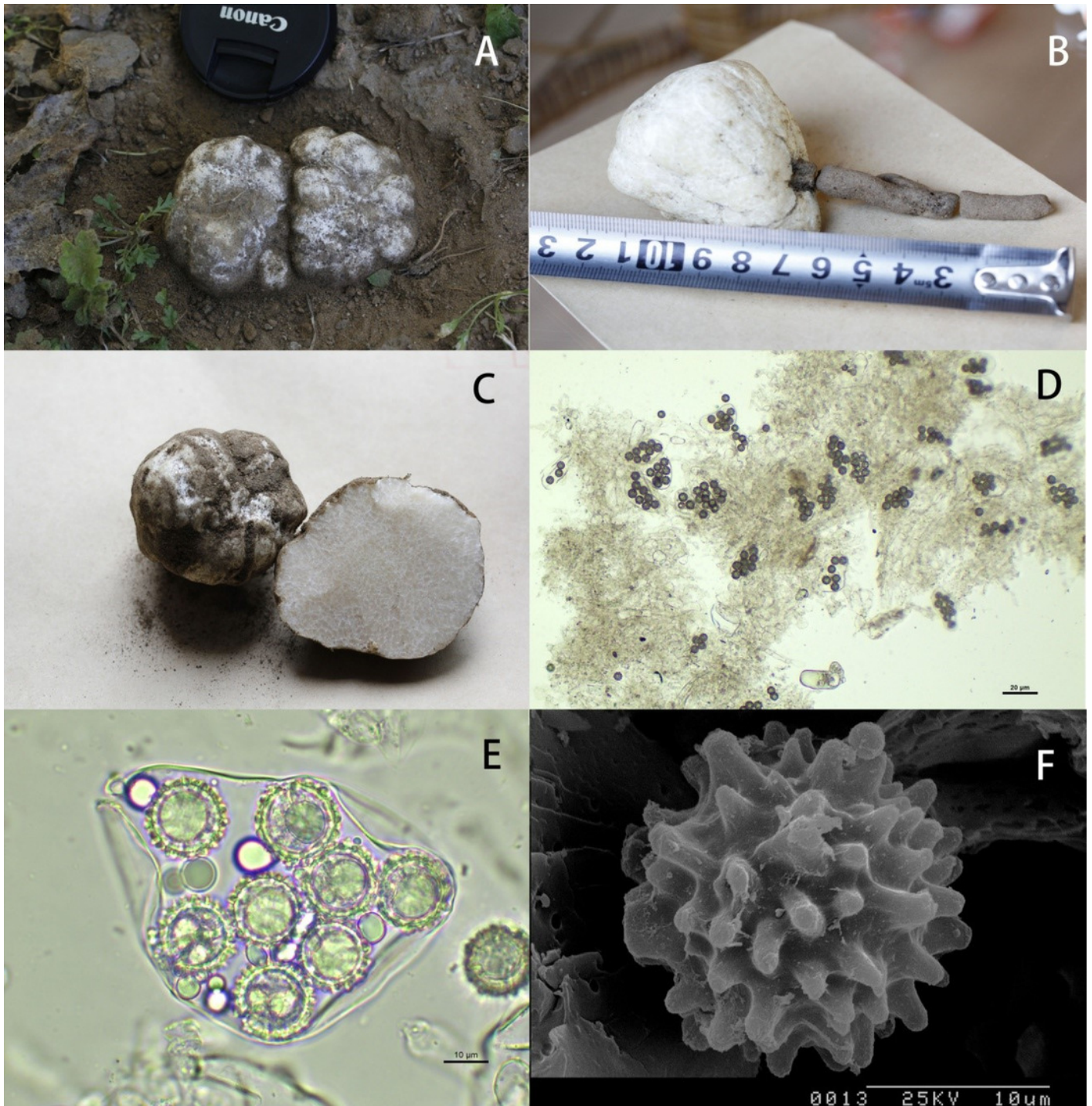


Figure 2

Average monthly precipitation for different area

Average monthly precipitation for the recent Chinese (Baotou) (black solid line), for other Asian (dark grey) and European (light gray) collections of *Mattiolomyces* *terfezioloides*

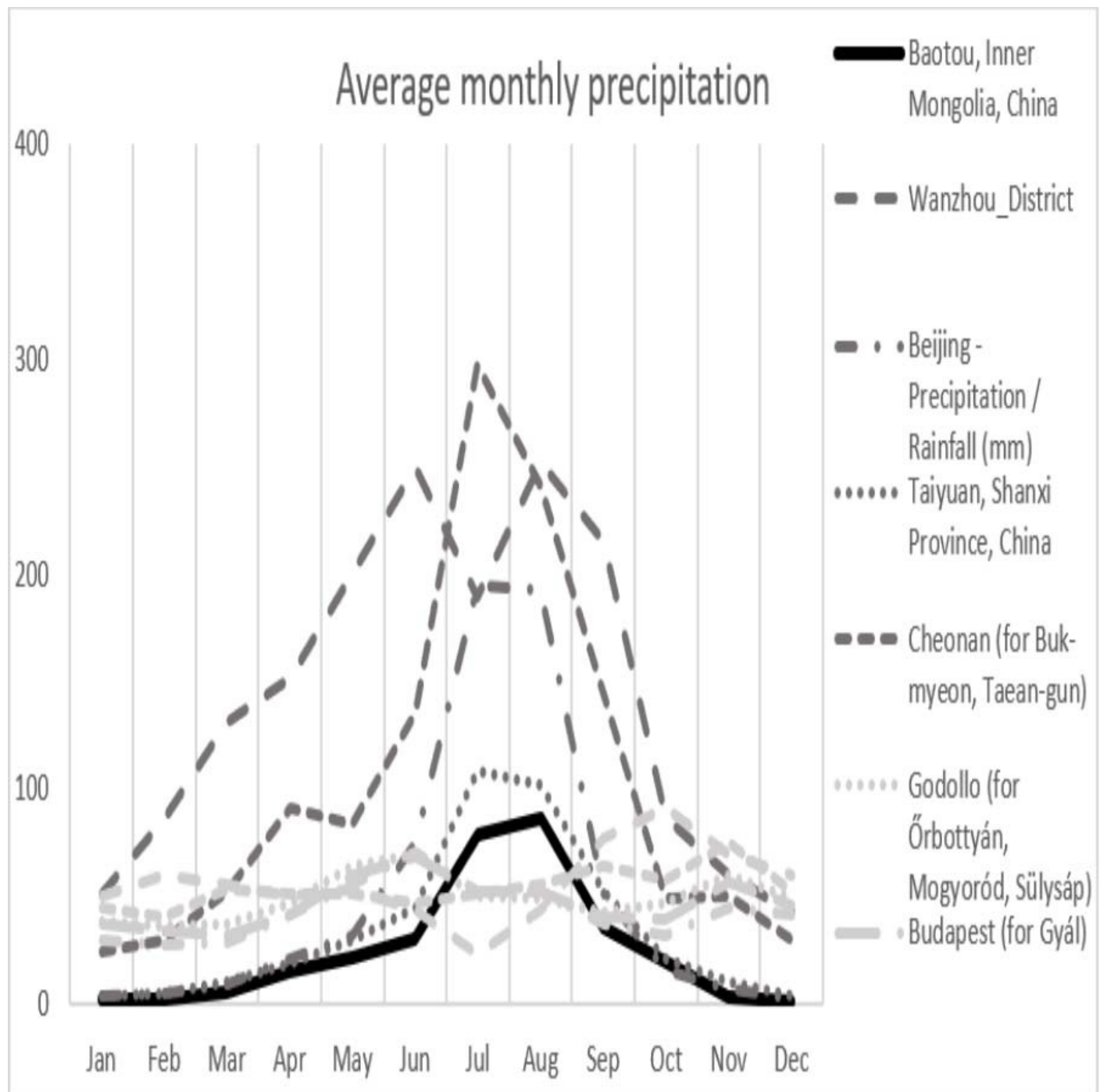


Figure 3

Average monthly temperature for different area

Average monthly temperature for the recent Chinese (Baotou) (black solid line), for other Asian (dark grey) and European (light gray) collections of *Mattiolomyces terfezioloides*

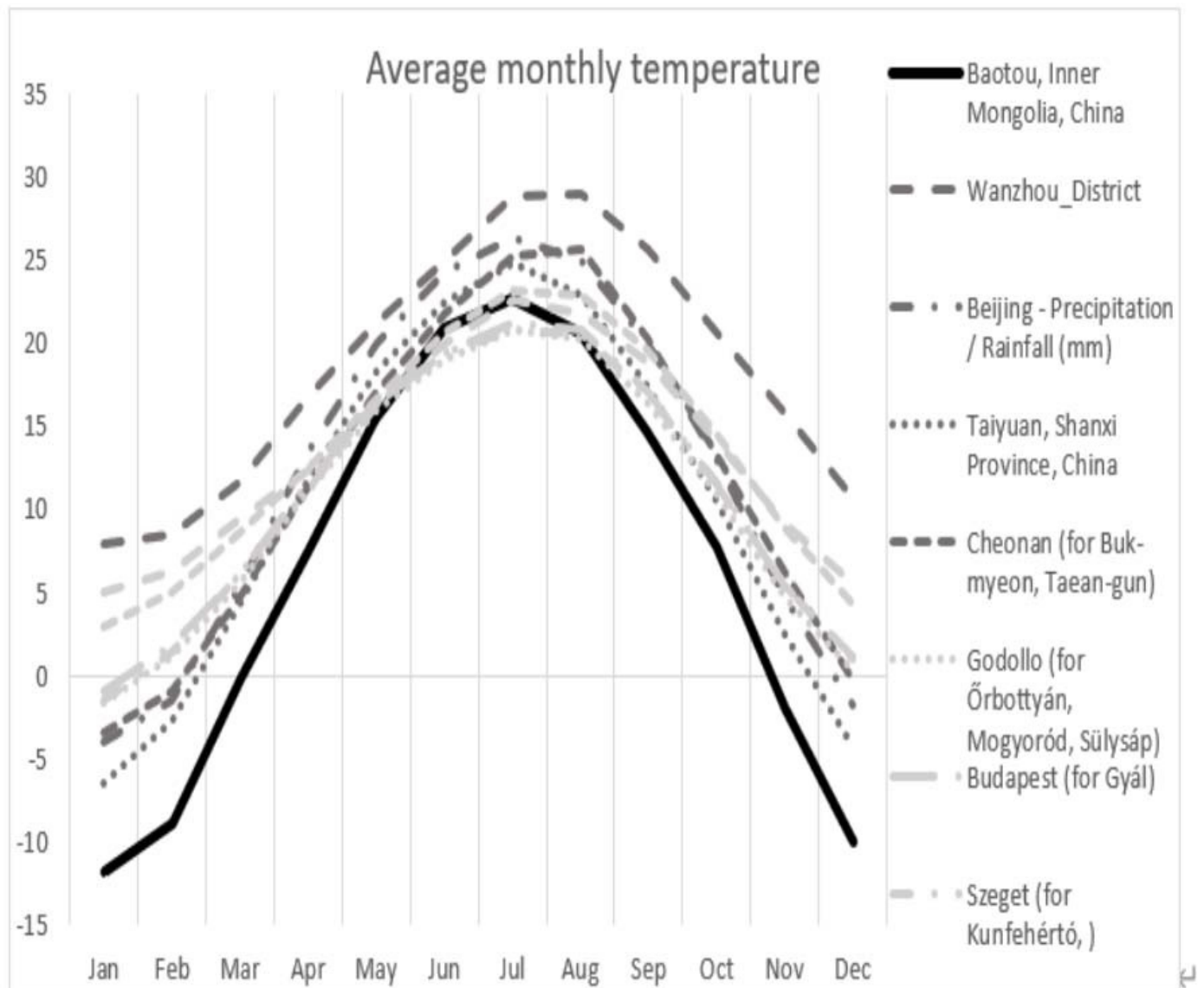


Figure 4

Phylogram of *Mattiolomyces* based on the sequences dataset of the complete ITS region

Phylogram of *Mattiolomyces* based on the sequences dataset of the complete ITS region. Bootstrap values (ML) / posterior probabilities (from Bayesian Inference) are shown above or beneath individual branches. Only bootstrap values larger than 60 and posterior possibilities over 0.95 are shown.

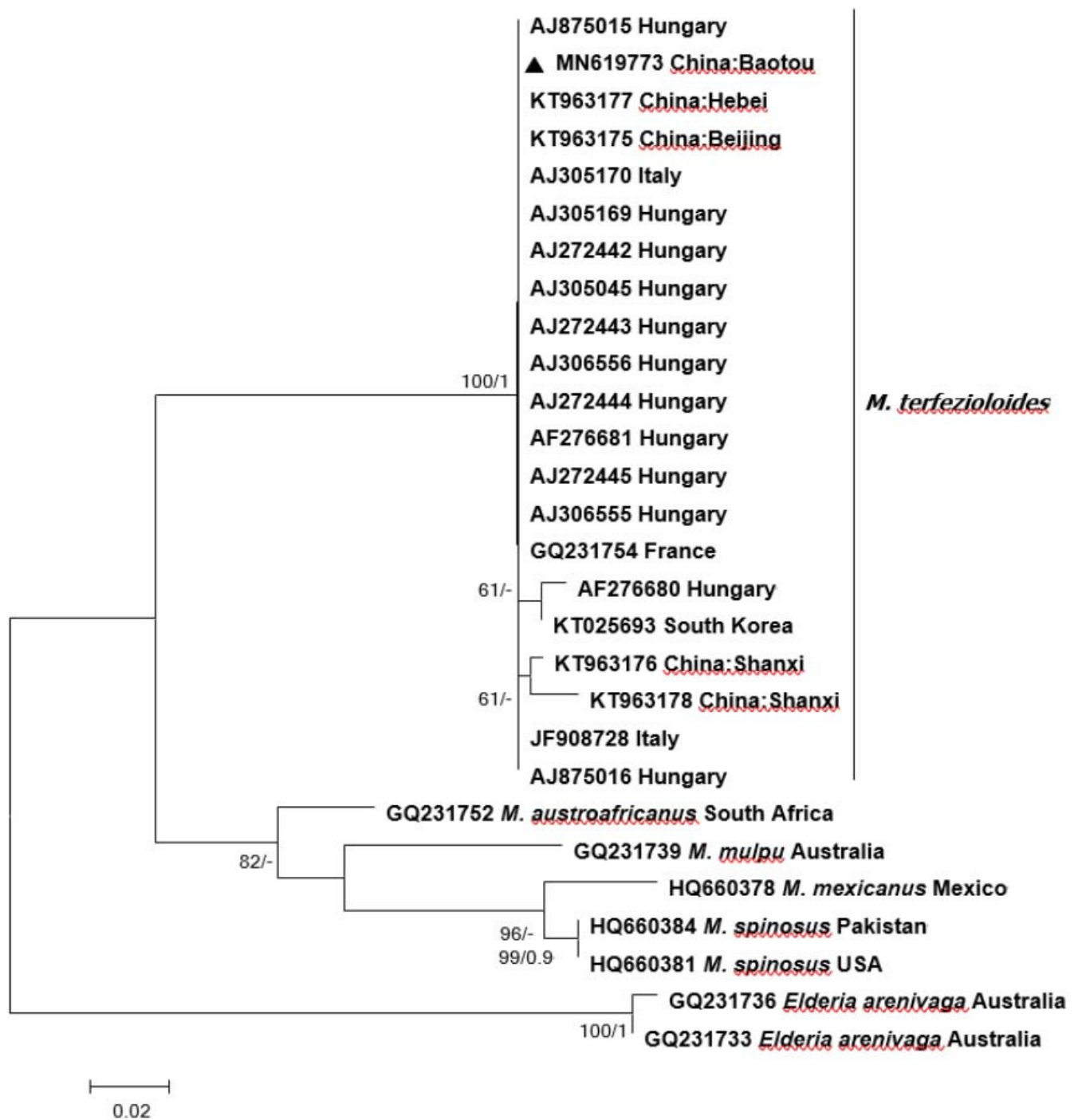


Figure 5

A rooted phylogenetic network of *Mattirolomyces* based on the sequences dataset of the complete ITS region

A rooted phylogenetic network of *Mattirolomyces* based on the sequences dataset of the complete ITS region. Black dots represent recent taxa, gray dots represent ancestral stages / nodes. Values on mutation vectors represent the number of mutations between two nodes. Names of existing taxa and their geographic origin (country of collections) are given. Phylogenetic network was constructed and tested with a Median joining approach.

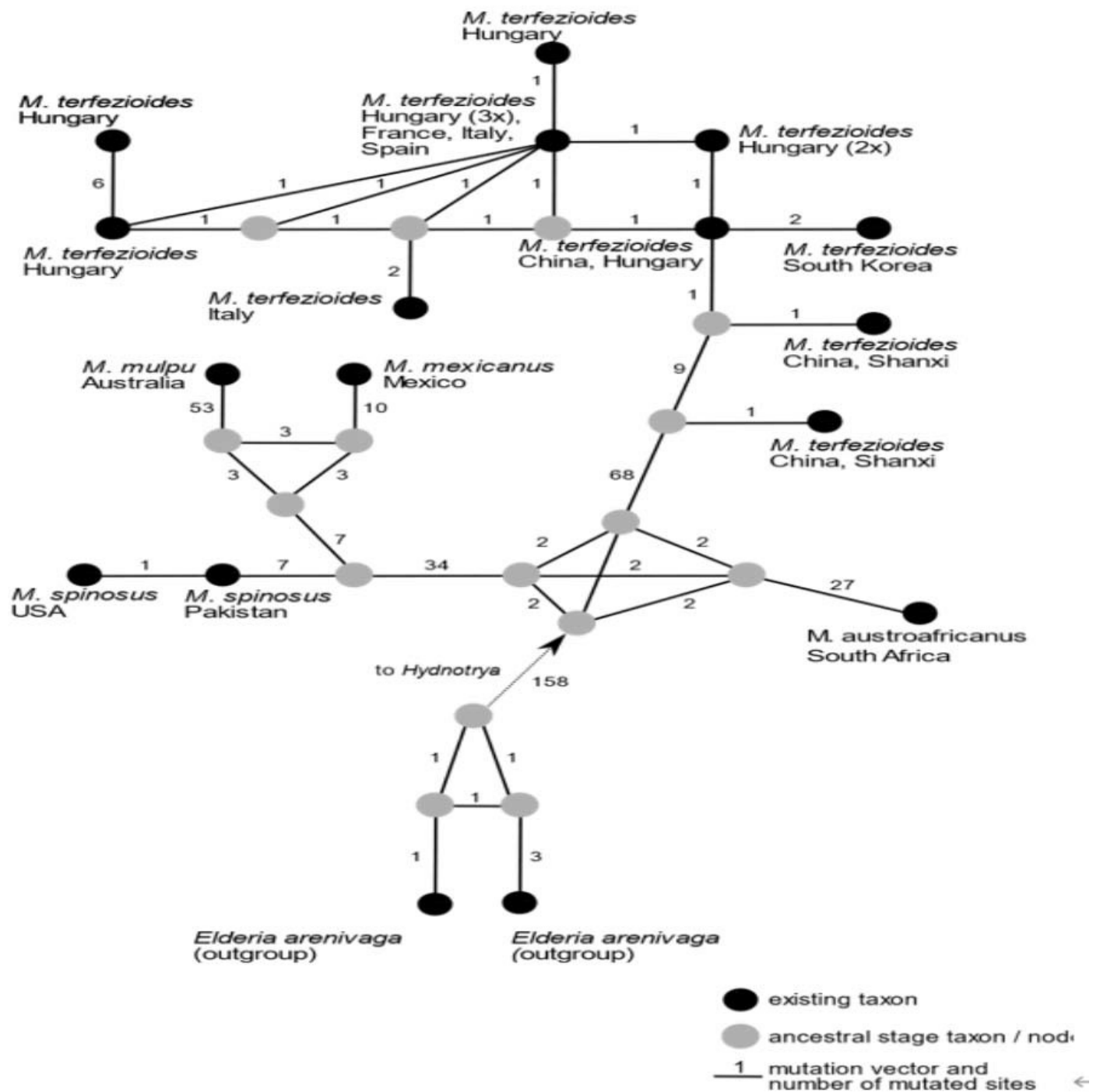


Table 1(on next page)

The list of obtained nuclear rDNA ITS sequences from the genus *Mattirolomyces* and location of the collection, climate, vegetation and other site data

The list of obtained nuclear rDNA ITS sequences from the genus *Mattirolomyces*, retrieved from the GenBank or UNITE database and included in the study. Species name and the GenBank accession numbers were supplemented with location of the collection, climate, vegetation and other site data, if available.

1 Table 1: The list of obtained nuclear rDNA ITS sequences from the genus *Mattirolomyces*, retrieved from the GenBank or UNITE
2 database and included in the study. Species name and the GenBank accession numbers were supplemented with location of the
3 collection, climate, vegetation and other site data, if available.

Species	GenBank reference code	Country and area or origin	Climate (Köppen-Geiger climate classification)	Potential(*) symbiotic partners	Sequence reference
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	KT963177	China, Hebei Province, Wanxian	Dwa	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Wang et al. 2017
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	KT963175	China, Beijing province	Dwa	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Wang et al. 2017
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	AJ305170	Italy, Ravenna	Cfa	n/a	Kovács et al. 2001
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	AJ305169	Hungary, Great Hungarian Plain, Kunfehértó	Cfb	n/a	Kovács et al. 2001
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	AJ272442	Hungary, Great Hungarian Plain, Órbottyán	Dfa/Dfb	n/a	Kovács et al. 2001
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	AJ305045	Hungary, Great Hungarian Plain, Mogyoród	Dfa/Dfb	n/a	Kovács et al. 2001
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	AJ272443	Hungary, Great Hungarian Plain, Gyál	Dfa/Dfb	n/a	Kovács et al. 2001
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	AJ306556	Hungary, Great Hungarian Plain, Kunfehértó	Cfb	n/a	Kovács et al. 2001
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	AJ272444	Hungary, Great Hungarian Plain, Órbottyán	Dfa/Dfb	n/a	Kovács et al. 2001
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	AF276681	Hungary, Surány	Dfa	n/a	Díez et al. 2002
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	AJ272445	Hungary, Süllysap	Dfa/Dfb	n/a	Kovács et al. 2001
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	GQ231754	France, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Le Thor	Csa	n/a	Trappe et al. 2010
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	AJ306555	Hungary, Great Hungarian Plain, Kunfehértó	Cfb	n/a	Kovács et al. 2001
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	AF276680	Hungary, Csomád	Dfa	n/a	Kovács et al. 2001
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	KT025693	South Korea, Buk-myeon, Taean-gun	Dwa	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Ka et al. 2015
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	KT963176	China, Shanxi Province, Taiyuan	BSk	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Wang et al. 2017
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	JF908728	Italy	n/a	n/a	Osmundson et al. 2013
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	AJ875015	Hungary	Dfa/Dfb	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Bratek et al. 1996

<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	KT963178	China, Shanxi Province, Taiyuan	BSk	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Wang et al. 2017
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	AJ875016	Hungary	Dfa/Dfb	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Bratek et al. 1996
<i>Mattirolomyces terfezioides</i>	MN619773	China, Inner Mongolia, Baotou	BSk	<i>Populus alba</i> var. <i>pyramidalis</i>	this study
<i>Mattirolomyces spinosus</i>	HQ660384	Pakistan, Punjab, Sheikhupura	BSh	n/a 	Kovács et al. 2011
<i>Mattirolomyces mexicanus</i>	HQ660378	Mexico, Nuevo Leon, Guadalupe	BSh	n/a	Kovács et al. 2011
<i>Mattirolomyces spinosus</i>	HQ660381	USA, Louisiana, Natchitoches	Cfa	n/a	Kovács et al. 2011
<i>Mattirolomyces austroafricanus</i>	GQ231752	South Africa, Northern Cape province, Barkly West	BSh	n/a	Trappe et al. 2010
<i>Mattirolomyces mulpu</i>	GQ231739	Australia, Northern Territory	Bwh	n/a	Trappe et al. 2010
<i>Elderia arenivaga</i> (outgroup)	GQ231736	Australia, Northern Territory, Alice Springs Desert Park	Bwh	n/a	Trappe et al. 2010
<i>Elderia arenivaga</i> (outgroup)	GQ231733	Australia, South Australia, Great Victoria Desert	Bwh/Bwk	n/a	Trappe et al. 2010

4 n/a not available.