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# The species of *Coleosporium* (Pucciniales) on *Solidago* in North America

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## Abstract

Species of *Coleosporium* (Pucciniales) are rust fungi that typically alternate between pines and angiosperms. The telial stage of *Coleosporium* is frequently encountered on species of *Solidago* (goldenrods) in North America, although the taxonomy for rust fungi on *Solidago* is unresolved. The comprehensive works of Joseph. C. Arthur and George B. Cummins considered these rust fungi to belong to a single species, *C. solidaginis* (fide Arthur) or *C. asterum* (fide Cummins). However, later inoculum studies demonstrated there were two distinct species of *Coleosporium* on *Solidago* that differed in their aecial hosts, although their telia and uredinia overlapped on some species of *Asteraceae*. In a previous taxonomic study of *Coleosporium*, specimens on *Solidago* that were determined as *C. asterum* in North America were not conspecific with the type, originally described from Japan. This prompted the present study to clarify the identity of those species of *Coleosporium* that infect *Solidago* and related hosts in North America. To this end, more than 40 collections of *Coleosporium* infecting *Asteraceae* from North America were included in a systematic study using regions of ribosomal DNA and morphology of teliospores and basidia. Our data indicated at least three species of *Coleosporium* occur on *Solidago* in North America. *Coleosporium solidaginis* is distinguished from other species of

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