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BRIEF COMMUNICATION

THE RUST GENUS UROPYXIS AND THE POSITION OF DIPHYSA (LEGUMINOSAE)

T. HIJWEGEN

Laboratorium voor Fytopathologie, Binnenhaven 9, 6709 PD Wageningen.

The rust genus *Uropyxis* Schroeter has been monographed by BAXTER (1959) and reported to be composed of thirteen species. If three atypic species, approaching *Dipyxis* Cummins & Baxter are removed (SAVILE 1979), the genus is confined to host plants in two related tribes of the Leguminosae, viz. Aeschynomeneae and Amorpheae, and the genus *Diphysa* Jacq.

The related genus *Phragmopyxis* Dietel infects hosts in the genera *Cracca (Benthamantha)* and *Coursetia* (both Robiniae) (ARTHUR 1934) in Central America and the unrelated genus *Cassia* in Africa.

The genus *Diphysa* Jacq. has been variously placed. By TAUBERT (1894) it was included in Galegeae subtribe Robiniinae. HUTCHINSON (1964) created a separate tribe for the genus and POLHILL & SOUSA (1981) referred *Diphysa* to their Robinieae. However, there is a rather conspicuous remark in their paper referring to a different possibility suggested by Gillett: '... a note in his' (Gillett's) 'hand on the Kew covers of *Diphysa*... read "?this genus better placed in the Hedysareae" [Aeschynomeneae of this volume], "note the swollen based hairs" '.

So there is evidence both from morphology and host-pathogen distribution that *Diphysa* might be better placed in Aeschynomeneae. Furthermore, Aeschynomeneae and Amorpheae as well as Adesmieae are characterized by the absence of canavanine, present in some members of the Robinieae (BELL 1981) and by a marked reduction of the endexine of the pollen (FERGUSON & SKVARLA 1981). To finally solve the question knowledge about these two important data is badly needed.

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