



Occurrence and distribution of *Perichaena* (Trichiaceae, Myxomycetes) in the Brazilian Northeastern Region

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ABSTRACT

The known distribution of *Perichaena calongei*, *P. chrysosperma*, *P. corticalis*, *P. depressa*, *P. microspora*, *P. pedata* and *P. vermicularis* in the nine states that comprise Brazil's Northeast Region (1,548,672 km²) is presented herein, enhancing our understanding of the distribution of the genus *Perichaena* (Trichiaceae, Myxomycetes) in the Neotropics. This inventory encompasses a 100-year period (1914-2014), and analyzes material deposited in herbaria and collected by the authors. The collected material came from areas of thorny deciduous vegetation typical of the Caatinga biome and portions of savannah in the continent's interior, rainforests, *restingas* (tropical moist broadleaf forests found along Brazil's coastal spits) and mangroves of the Atlantic Forest biome along a coastal zone of approximately 3,000 km. Descriptions, illustrations, vegetational environments, microhabitats and distribution maps are given for each species. New records include *Perichaena chrysosperma* and *P. depressa* in the state of Maranhão, *P. corticalis* in the states of Bahia, Piauí, Rio Grande do Norte and Sergipe, *P. calongei* in the Northeast Region, and *P. pedata* in Brazil. This paper adds to the known types of macroclimates, elevation levels, vegetational environments and substrates for these species and provides a better understanding of their global distribution pattern.

Keywords: chorology, microhabitat, rainforest, steppical-savannah, Trichiales

Introduction

Initially proposed by E. M. Fries in 1817, the genus *Perichaena* currently encompasses 34 species, with just under half (48%) being described between the years of 2000 and 2015, with type localities in countries of Africa, Asia, Europe, North, Central and South Americas (Novozhilov & Schnittler 2000; Wang *et al.* 2000; Yamamoto *et al.* 2002; Liu *et al.* 2007; Novozhilov *et al.* 2008; Estrada-Torres *et al.* 2009; Lado *et al.* 2009; 2014; Mitchell *et al.* 2011; Basanta *et al.* 2013; Ronikier *et al.* 2013; Lado 2015; Novozhilov & Stephenson 2015; Walker *et al.* 2015). In the Neotropics,

where 16 species have already been noted, only *P. calongei*, *P. megaspora* and *P. nigra* have their type locality in South America (Lado & Basanta 2008; Lado *et al.* 2009; 2014; Ronikier *et al.* 2013).

The genus is widely distributed in the Neotropical region, with records in 24 of the 31 countries where myxomycetes inventories have been conducted, with the greatest diversity being found in Mexico with 10 species, and Argentina and Ecuador, with six species each (Lado & Basanta 2008; Estrada-Torres *et al.* 2009; Lado *et al.* 2009; 2014; McHugh 2009; Rojas *et al.* 2013; Ronikier *et al.* 2013). The first record of the occurrence of a species of *Perichaena* in Brazil was based on a specimen of *P. chrysosperma* col-

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lected in the first decade of the 20th century in the state of Santa Catarina, in the Southern Region of Brazil (Jahn 1902; Cavalcanti & Fortes 1994). *Perichaena depressa* has also been said to occur in the Southern Region of Brazil, having been found in the states of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul (Cavalcanti & Fortes 1995; Cavalcanti 2015). In the Northern Region, the first record of this genus was made near the end of the 20th century based on a collection of an unidentified species found at the Maracá Ecological Station, in the state of Roraima (Cavalcanti *et al.* 1999); recently, *P. longipes* was described as occurring on aerial litter in the same state (Walker *et al.* 2015). In the Southeast Region, *P. depressa*, *P. chrysosperma*, *P. microspora* and *P. vermicularis* are all found in the states of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro (Torrend 1915; Maimoni-Rodella & Gottsberger 1980; Hochgesand & Gottsberger 1996; Cavalcanti 2015). *Perichaena depressa* and *P. vermicularis* are known to occur in the Central-West Region from collections conducted in Cerrado environments at IBGE's Ecological Reserve in the Federal District (Carvalho *et al.* 2011). Recently, Araujo *et al.* (2015) documented *P. calongei* in Brazil for the first time, based on specimens collected in the National Forest of Silvânia, a conservation unit of Cerrado in the state of Goiás.

The first mention of the occurrence of *Perichaena* in the Brazilian Northeast Region was based on a specimen of *P. chrysosperma* collected early in the 20th century in Belém da Cachoeira in the state of Bahia (Torrend 1915). The genus has been recorded in almost all states of the Northeast Region with the exception of Maranhão (Cavalcanti 1974a; 2015; Cavalcanti & Marinho 1985; Góes & Cavalcanti 2002; Cavalcanti *et al.* 2006a; 2006b; Alves *et al.* 2010; Bezerra *et al.* 2014).

Despite these records, additional information regarding the species of *Perichaena* in Brazil is sparse with only Cavalcanti (1974a) supplying information on the types of environment, microhabitats and seasonal variation of the species that occur in the state of Pernambuco: *P. chrysosperma*, *P. depressa*, *P. corticalis*, *P. microspora* and *P. vermicularis*.

Aiming to expand up on the existing knowledge of the geographic and ecosystem distribution of myxomycetes in the Neotropics, this study presents the species of *Perichaena* found in the different states of the Northeast Region of Brazil and provides the vegetational environments they occupy based on records made between the years of 1914 and 2014.

Materials and methods

Study Region

One of South America's three major semi-arid areas is located in the Northeast Region of Brazil. It is characterized by low humidity, precipitation below evapotranspiration with irregular rainfall rhythms and extended periods

of draught (Ab'Sáber 1999). Covering some 970,000 km², it encompasses almost all of the Caatinga biome present in the states of Alagoas, Bahia, Ceará, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí and Sergipe, with average rainfall below 800 mm/year, an aridity index of up to 0.5 and high draught risk (MI 2005). Corresponding to climate, soil and topographical conditions, a wide variety of phytophysiognomies of xerophytic *caatinga* vegetation are found among the 1,113 municipalities of Brazil's semi-arid region (Prado 2003; Rodal *et al.* 2008), from dense arborous *caatinga*, where there is a predominance of *Spondias tuberosa* Arruda (Anacardiaceae), *Myracrodruon urundeuva* Allemão (Anacardiaceae), *Schinopsis brasiliensis* Engl. (Anacardiaceae), *Sideroxylon obtusifolium* (Roem. & Schult.) T.D. Penn. (Sapotaceae), *Tabebuia impetiginosa* (Mart. ex DC.) Standl. (Bignoniaceae), *Parapiptadenia zehntneri* (Harms) M.P. Lima & Lima (Fabaceae), *Pterogyne nitens* Tul. (Fabaceae), *Ziziphium joazeiro* Mart. (Rhamnaceae) and *Cereus jamacaru* DC. (Cactaceae), to creeping *caatinga* vegetation, where there is a predominance of *Pilosocereus pachycladus* F. Ritter (Cactaceae), *Pilosocereus tuberculatus* (Werderm.) Byles & G.D. Rowley (Cactaceae), *Eschweilera* spp. (Lecythidaceae), *Poeppegia procera* C. Presl (Fabaceae), *Dalbergia cearensis* Ducke (Fabaceae), *Piptadenia obliqua* (Pers.) J.F. Macbr. (Fabaceae), *Syagrus coronata* (Mart.) Becc. (Arecaceae) and *Jatropha mollissima* (Pohl) Baill. (Euphorbiaceae). The Atlantic Forest biome can be found along the entire 3,317 km of Atlantic Ocean coastline and reaching inland almost 200 km, also with a variety of different phytophysiognomies (Dense Ombrophilous Forest, Highland and Lowland Forests, Open Ombrophilous Forest, Mixed Ombrophilous Forest, Seasonal Deciduous and Semi-deciduous Forests, Steppe, Savannah and Steppical Savannah), with Restinga and Mangrove forests as associated ecosystems. Additionally, rainforest "islands", regionally known as Brejos de Altitude, are found in the semi-arid region at heights above 500 m. The Pernambuco Center of Endemism can be found in this biome, and is comprised of all areas of Atlantic Forest north of the São Francisco River from the state of Alagoas to the state of Rio Grande do Norte (Uchoa & Tabarelli 2002).

Collection and identification

The following herbaria were consulted in order to verify the occurrence of species of *Perichaena* Fries in the nine states of the Northeast Region of Brazil: HUEFS, ICN, IPA, JPB, SP, TEPB, UB, UFBA, UFP, URM (Thiers 2014). Exsiccate identification was confirmed or redetermined and the binomials updated according to Lado (2015). The inventory was completed with specimens and samples of substrates collected by the authors between 1968 and 2014 (ca. 200 study sites) in the states of Alagoas (AL), Bahia (BA), Ceará (CE), Maranhão (MA), Paraíba (PB), Pernambuco (PE), Piauí (PI), Rio Grande do Norte (RN)



and Sergipe (SE) for preparing ca 6,500 moist chamber cultures (Härkönen 1981). Selected specimens were used to illustrate the sporocarps and taxonomically significant microstructures. Keys, illustrations and descriptions by Martin & Alexopoulos (1969); Farr (1976); Lado & Pando (1997) and Poulain *et al.* (2011) were used for species identification. Localities and corresponding geographical coordinates (based on field notes and exsiccate labels) were employed to construct distribution maps for the species using the QGIS 2.2 program.

Summary data on collecting localities in the nine states

Alagoas (AL): 1 - São José da Tapera municipality, 09°33'28"S and 37°22'51"W. Biome: Caatinga. Herbarium: URM.

Bahia (BA): 2 - Private Reserve of Natural Heritage (RPPN) Serra do Teimoso, Jussari municipality, 15°09'472" S and 39°31'737"W; 3 - Campus of the Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana, Feira de Santana municipality, 12°16'01"S and 38°58'01"W; 4 - Jussiape municipality, 13°31'01"S and 41°35'34"W; 5 - Campo Formoso municipality, 10°30'32"S and 40°19'15"W; 6 - Brejo do Tamanduá municipality, 10°25'36"S and 40°15'51"W; 7 - Jaguarari municipality, 10°15'36"S and 40°11'45"W; 8 - Rio de Contas municipality, 13°34'44"S and 41°48'39"W; 9 - Environmental Protection Area (APA) of Marimbus, Lençóis municipality, 12°33'46"S and 41°23'24"W. Biomes: Atlantic Forest; Caatinga, including Brejo de Altitude. Herbaria: HUEFS; UFP.

Ceará (CE): 10 - Sobral municipality, 03°40'26"S and 40°14'20"W. Biome: Caatinga. Herbarium: UFP.

Maranhão (MA): 11 - Bacanga Ecological Station, São Luis municipality, 02°31'48"S and 44°18'10"W. Biome: Atlantic Forest. Herbarium: UFP.

Paraíba (PB): 12 - RPPN Pau Ferro Forest, Areia municipality, 06°57'46"S and 35°42'31"W; 13 - Campus of the Universidade Federal da Paraíba, João Pessoa municipality, 07°05'00"S and 34°50'00"W; 14 - Mata do Buraquinho Forest Reserve, João Pessoa municipality. 15 - Guaribas Biological Reserve, Mamanguape municipality, 06°50'20"S and 35°07'33"W. Biomes: Atlantic Forest; Caatinga (Brejo de Altitude). Herbaria: JPB; UFP.

Pernambuco (PE): 15 - Recife city, urban parks, home gardens and backyards, 08°03'14"S and 34°52'51"W; 16 - Dois Irmãos State Park, Recife municipality, 08°00'33"S and 34°56'37"W; 17 - Curado Botanical Garden, Recife, 08°04'36"S and 34°58'03"W; 18 - Olinda city, home gardens and backyards, 08°00'32"S and 34°51'18"W; 19 - Enseadinha beach, Rio Doce beach, 07°57'24"S and 34°49'00"W; 20 - Chico Science mangrove, Olinda municipality, 08°33'43"S and 34°86'32"W; 21 - Janga (*restinga* forest), Paulista municipality, 7°56'68"S and 34°51'54"W; 22 - Charles Darwin Ecological Refuge, Igarassu municipi-

ality, 07°48'55"S and 34°57'16"W; 23 - Mata do Estado Reserve, São Vicente Ferrer municipality, 07°35'00"S and 35°30'00"; 24 - Tapacurá Ecological Reserve, São Lourenço da Mata municipality, 08°03'27"S and 35°13'20"W; 25 - Gurjau Ecological Reserve, Cabo de Santo Agostinho municipality, 8°28'66"S and 35°03'50"W; 26 - Saltinho Biological Reserve, Rio Formoso municipality, 8°42'00"S and 35°10'00"W; 27 - Rio Formoso mangrove, Rio Formoso municipality, 08°39'50"S and 35°09'32"W; 28 - Serra de Ororubá, Pesqueira municipality, 8°25'8"S and 37°3'14"W; 29 - Vale do Catimbau National Park, Buique municipality, 08°37'44"S and 37°09'50"W. Biomes: Atlantic Forest, including Costal tablands, Restingas and Mangroves; Caatinga, including Brejos de Altitude; Cerrado spots. Herbaria: IPA, UFP, URM.

Piauí (PI): 30 - Sete Cidades National Park, Piri-piri municipality, 04°16'22"S and 41°46'37"W; 31 - Zoobotanic Park, Teresina municipality, 05°05'20"S and 42°48'07"W; 32 - Serra da Capivara National Park, São Raimundo Nonato municipality, 05°05'20"S and 42°48'07"W; 33 - Serra Branca municipality, 06°04'00"S and 41°27'00"W. Biomes: Caatinga; Cerrado spots. Herbaria: TEPB; UFP.

Rio Grande do Norte (RN): 34 - RPPN Estrela Forest, Formosa Bay municipality, 06°24'33"S and 34°59'25"W; 35 - Seridó Ecological Reserve, Serra Negra do Norte municipality, 06°35'29"S and 37°15'41"W; 36 - Dunas State Park, Natal municipality, 05°49'12"S and 35°11'16"W. Biomes: Atlantic Forest including Restinga; Caatinga. Herbarium: UFP.

Sergipe (SE): 37 - Pacatuba municipality 10°27'12"S and 36°39'05"W. 38 - Serra de Itabaiana National Park, Areia Branca municipality, 10°45'29"S and 37°18'45"W. Biome: Atlantic Forest including Mangroves. Herbarium: UFP.

Results and Discussion

In the six herbaria where exsiccates of *Perichaena* were found, 318 specimens of different levels of preservation and corresponding to seven species occurring in one or more states of Brazil's Northeast Region, were assessed. A list of voucher specimens, substrata and localities is provided in Tab. S1 in Supplementary material. We provide the first records of *Perichaena chrysosperma* and *P. depressa* for the state of Maranhão, *P. corticalis* for Bahia, Piauí, Rio Grande do Norte, and Sergipe, *P. calongei* for the Northeast Region, and *P. pedata* for Brazil.

Among the species of *Perichaena* recorded for Brazil's Northeast Region, *P. depressa* shows the widest distribution, with records in all states except Alagoas, while the remaining species were recorded from only one or two of the nine states. In this region of the country, these species are distributed among environments of savannah, steppical-savannah (=caatinga), rupestrian fields, highland and lowland forests, dense and open ombrophilous forests, semi-deciduous seasonal forests, riparian forests, coastal



tablelands, restinga and mangrove forests, but they were most abundant in rainforests (Tab. 1). In the several vegetational environments where they are found, on the most part, they sporulate on decomposing tree trunks, behaving also as corticolous, fimicolous, floricolous, foliicolous, lichenicolous, myceticolous and succulenticolous (Tab. 2).

Perichaena, and the seven species of this genus that occur in the Northeast Region of Brazil, are described and commented on below.

Perichaena Fr., Syst. Gasteromyc.: 11. 1817.

Typus: *Perichaena populina* Fr.

Sporocarps sessile or stalked with globose, subglobose or flat sporotheca, to plasmodiocarps. Peridium double, rarely simple. Stalk, when present, blackened, with refuse material, more rarely white, with calcium deposits. Capillitium abundant or scanty, filaments hollow, non-birefringent, simple or branched, almost smooth, warted or spiny, often constricted. Spores in mass yellow, orange-colored or ochraceous, yellow by transmitted light, globose, subglobose to ovate, rarely polygonal, warted, spinose or reticulated (Lister 1925; Martin & Alexopoulos 1969; Novozhilov *et al.* 2008; Poulain *et al.* 2011; Novozhilov & Stephenson 2015).

For some authors, such as Eliasson (1977; 2015), Keller & Eliasson (1992) and Novozhilov *et al.* (2008), species with capillitium scanty or absent indicate a possible affinity between *Perichaena* and *Licea*; however, this relationship was not supported in recent molecular phylogenetic analyses that showed the genus *Perichaena* to be monophyletic (Fiore-Donno *et al.* 2013).

1. *Perichaena calongei* Lado, D. Wrigley and Estrada, in Lado, Wrigley, Estrada, García Carvajal, Aguilar and Hernández-Crespo, Anales Jard. Bot. Madrid 66S1:63-70. 2009. Fig. 1A-E.

Hypothallus conspicuous. Sporocarp disperse, subsessile. Sporotheca subglobose, amber to orange yellow, 200-

800 µm diam. Peridium opens into polygonal plates along predefined lines, remaining at the base as an irregular calyculus; external layer coriaceous, inner layer membranous, yellowish, firmly adhering to the external layer. Capillitium tubular, filaments branched, rare free ends, diameter irregular (2-4 µm), yellow, with spines, grains and/or reticules irregularly distributed with triangular, ellipsoid or fusiform expansions. Spores in mass orange-yellow, subglobose, yellow by transmitted light, densely warted, 10-13 µm diam.

Distribution in the Northeast Region of Brazil: BA - 2, PE - 27, RN -35 (this paper).

Described by Lado *et al.* (2009), *P. calongei* occurs in different localities distributed among the five states in northwestern Argentina in arid environments at high elevations; all specimens were obtained from the base of dead *Puya* sp. (Bromeliaceae) leaves, directly in the field or from moist chambers with a pH varying from neutral to slightly alkaline. The species was not found on other substrates or in cultures prepared with the remains of native plants from the same areas, which led the authors to conclude that microhabitat requirements are offered only by this type of Bromeliaceae.

Perichaena calongei is rare in Brazil, with only three records for the Northeast Region (this paper) and one for the National Forest of Silvânia (895-900 m), in the Central-West Region, found on decaying leaves and bark samples collected in a gallery forest and placed in moist chamber cultures (Araujo *et al.* 2015). Specimens were obtained from moist chambers assembled with lianas from the dense submontane ombrophilous forest in Bahia (RPPN Serra do Teimoso), bark of living trees on dense ombrophilous lowland forest (Saltinho Biological Reserve, PE) and with forest litter from Restinga forest (RPPN Estrela Forest), along the seashores of Rio Grande do Norte (Tabs. 1-2). The data obtained in the present study increases the known types of macroclimates, elevations, vegetational environments and substrates for this

Table 1. Vegetational environments in which species of *Perichaena* Fr. occur in Brazil's Northeast Region. Rup. = Rupestrian fields. Mang. = Mangrove forest. Sav. = Savannah. Caat. = Caatingas. Urb. = Urban areas. Forests: 1 - Dense ombrophilous of the lowlands; 2 - Sub-montane dense ombrophilous 3 - Seasonal semi-deciduous; 4 - Restinga. 5 - Pluvio-Nebular Tropical Subperennial l6 - Pre-Amazonian

Species	Vegetational environments										
	Rup.	Mang.	Forests						Sav.	Caat.	Urb.
			1	2	3	4	5	6			
<i>P. calongei</i>				+			+				
<i>P. chrysosperma</i>	+		+	+	+	+	+			+	+
<i>P. corticalis</i>			+		+					+	+
<i>P. depressa</i>		+	+					+	+	+	+
<i>P. microspora</i>			+		+						
<i>P. pedata</i>				+	+						
<i>P. vermicularis</i>					+						+



Table 2. Microhabitats in which species of *Perichaena* Fr. occur in Brazil's Northeast Region

Microhabitat	Species
Corticolous	<i>P. chrysoesperma</i> ; <i>P. corticalis</i> ; <i>P. depressa</i> ; <i>P. pedata</i> ; <i>P. vermicularis</i> .
Fimicolous	<i>P. corticalis</i> ; <i>P. depressa</i> .
Foliicolous	<i>P. calongei</i> ; <i>P. chrysoesperma</i> ; <i>P. corticalis</i> ; <i>P. depressa</i> ; <i>P. microspora</i> .
Floricolous	<i>P. chrysoesperma</i> ; <i>P. corticalis</i> ; <i>P. depressa</i> .
Lignicolous	<i>P. calongei</i> ; <i>P. chrysoesperma</i> ; <i>P. corticalis</i> ; <i>P. depressa</i> ; <i>P. vermicularis</i> .
Lichenicolous	<i>P. corticalis</i> .
Myceticolous	<i>P. corticalis</i> .
Succulenticolous	<i>P. chrysoesperma</i> ; <i>P. corticalis</i> ; <i>P. depressa</i> .

species and contributes to a better understanding of its global distribution pattern.

2. *Perichaena chrysoesperma* (Curr.) Lister, Monogr. Mycetozoa: 196. 1894. Fig. 1A, F-I.

Hypothallus conspicuous. Plasmodiocarps disperse, horseshoe, ring or linear-shaped, (0.4)-0.6-1.2 (-1.6) mm wide up to 0.5 cm long, occasionally exhibiting globose sporocarp, sessile to subsessile, nut brown-yellow, nut-brown-red or blackened nut-brown. Peridium double, pale yellow, external layer cartilaginous, inner layer membranous, smooth or slightly wrinkled; dehiscence irregular. Capillitium tubular, pale yellow, filaments 3-4 μm diam., frequently covered with spines up to 5 μm long, sparse and sometimes with some rounded tips. Spores in mass pale yellow, subglobose, varying slightly from yellow to light nut-brown by transmitted light, distinctly warty, (9-) 10-11 (-12) μm diam.

Distribution in the Northeastern Region of Brazil: BA - 2, PB - 12; PE - 16; 17; 23; 19; 29; 30; 25; 222; RN - 35; 36; SE - 39 (Cavalcanti 2015). MA - 11 (this paper).

In Brazil's Northeast Region, *P. chrysoesperma* can be found in natural environments as well as in urban parks, backyards and home gardens, sporulating in almost all months of the year, but reaching its peak in the rainy season (Cavalcanti 1974a). It is mostly lignicolous, however, it occupies other microhabitats as well, developing on the cortex of living trees, on ground litter and on succulent and plant inflorescences (Tab. 2). It is distributed among different municipalities in the state of Bahia, Maranhão (first record), Paraíba, Pernambuco, Rio Grande do Norte and Sergipe, in pre-Amazonian forest environments, lowland dense ombrophilous forests, semi-deciduous seasonal forests, *restinga* forests, *caatinga* and rupestrian fields (Tab. 1). This is the first record of this species in a pre-Amazonian forest environment, as well as in an extremely dry environment such as the *caatinga*, in the microregion of Seridó Ocidental, in the state of Rio Grande do Norte.

3. *Perichaena corticalis* (Batsch) Rostaf., Sluzowce Monogr. 293. 1875. Fig. 2A-E.

Hypothallus conspicuous, membranous, usually continuous for a group of sporocarps. Sporocarp sessile, with a slightly constricted base. Sporotheca subglobose, 0.4-0.9 mm diam., yellowish, reddish nut-brown or yellowish nut-brown. Peridium double, external layer cartilaginous, opaque, thickened with granules, inner layer membranous, translucent, light yellow and smooth; dehiscence circumscissile by a sinuous line slightly above the base of the sporotheca. Capillitium scanty, devoid of ramifications, filaments pale yellow. Spore in mass golden-yellow to orange, globose to oval-shaped, pale yellow by transmitted light, warty, (10-) 11 (-13) μm diam.

Distribution in the Northeast Region of Brazil: AL - 1, PB - 12; 13, PE - 16; 17; 29. (Bezerra *et al.* 2014; Cavalcanti 2015). BA - 5, 6, 7, PI - 33, RN - 36, SE - 39 (this paper).

In Brazil, the published records of this species were restricted to the Northeast Region, occurring in the states of Alagoas (Bezerra *et al.* 2014), Pernambuco (Farr 1960), Paraíba and Piauí (Cavalcanti 2015). The present study includes specimens collected in the Mesoregion of North Central Bahia (UFP 43420 and UFP 43447), and in the states of Sergipe and Rio Grande do Norte, in the wilderness of Seridó. In the environments in which it was recorded, *P. corticalis* occupies different microhabitats and can be lignicolous, foliicolous, corticolous or fimicolous in different types of vegetation from *Caatinga* (UFP 43428; UFP 43433 and UFP 43435), for which there were no previous occurrence records, to coastal rainforests (Tabs. 1-2).

4. *Perichaena depressa* Lib., Pl. Crypt. Arduenna 378. 1837. Fig. 2A, F-K.

Hypothallus inconspicuous. Sporocarp sessile, aggregated, seldom dispersed. Sporotheca strongly flattened (0.9-) 1.0-1.5 (-1.7) mm diam., yellowish brown, reddish brown or blackened brown with a yellow dehiscence line very close to its base. Peridium double, external layer cartilaginous, firm, opaque, thickened with granules, in-



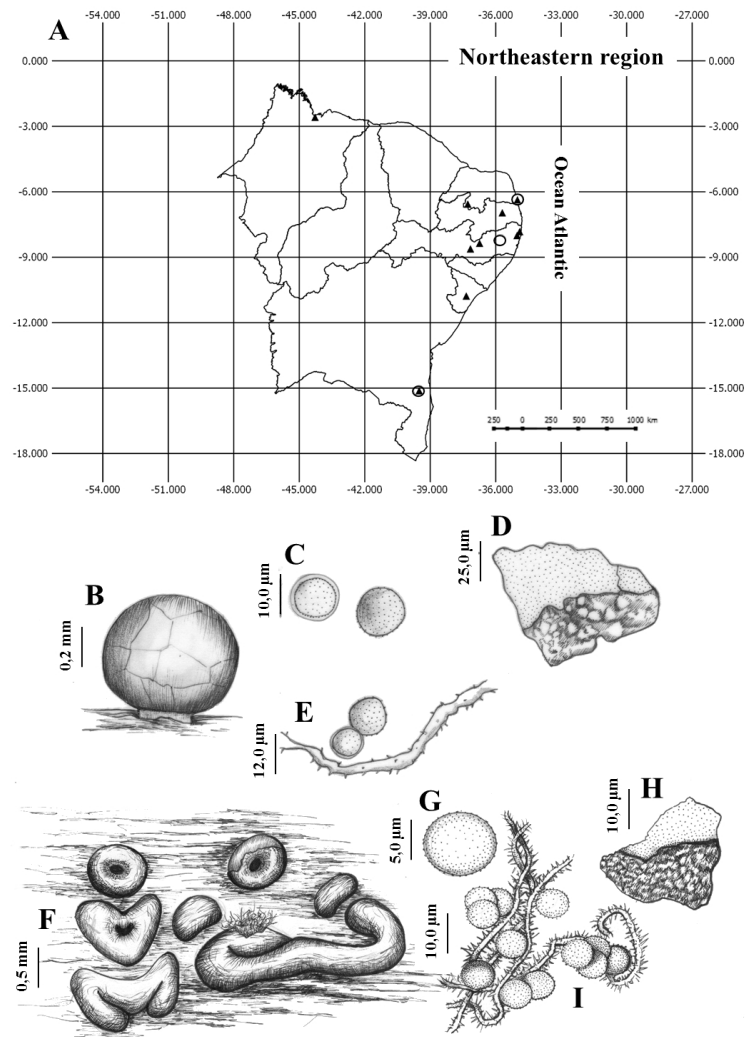


Figure 1. A. Geographical distribution of *Perichaena calongei* and *P. chrysosperma* in the Northeast Region of Brazil. B-E *Perichaena calongei*: B. Sporocarp. C. Spores. D. Inner surface of the peridium. E. Capillitium and spores. F-I *Perichaena chrysosperma*: F. Plasmodiocarp. G. Spore. H. Inner surface of the peridium. I. Capillitium and spores.

ner layer membranous, translucent, brilliant, light yellow; dehiscence circumscissile along the line formed just by the inner layer of the peridium. Capillitium tubular, abundant, filaments branched, (1.8-) 2-2.5 (-3.2) μm diam., minutely warty or, more frequently, with regularly spaced constrictions. Spores in mass golden-yellow or orange-colored, subglobose, pale yellow by transmitted light, warty, 9-10 μm diam.

Distribution in the Northeast Region of Brazil: AL - 1, BA - 5; 6; 8; PB - 14; 12; PE - 16; 21; 20; 17; 23; 29; 26; 28; 30; 31; PI - 31; 32; 33; RN - 35; 36; 7; SE - 38; 39 (Bezerra *et al.* 2014; Cavalcanti 2015). CE - 10; MA - 11 (this paper).

Despite its wide distribution in Brazil's northeast, the occurrence of *P. depressa* had not yet been recorded in the state of Maranhão, where it was collected in a pre-Amazonian rainforest environment, as well as in a steppical savannah environment with annual rainfall <500mm

(municipality of Campo Formoso, BA) and in natural areas of Seridó, in Rio Grande do Norte.

Perichaena depressa is predominantly lignicolous (40% of the samples), however, it is also found in special microhabitats occasionally as a floricolous or a succulenticolous species, but it is also one of the two species of this genus present in the studied collections that is fimicolous in Brazil's Northeast Region (Tab. 1).

5. *Perichaena microspora* Penz. & Lister, in Penzig, Myxomyc. Fl. Buitenzorg 76. 1898. Fig. 3A-E.

Hypothallus inconspicuous. Plasmodiocarp of varying length, sometimes reticulated, 250-350 μm diam., pink-salmon to ochraceous. Peridium simple, yellow, membranose, inner surface with grains of refused material close to the base of the sporocarp. Capillitium loose, yellowish-pink, filaments almost hyaline by transmitted



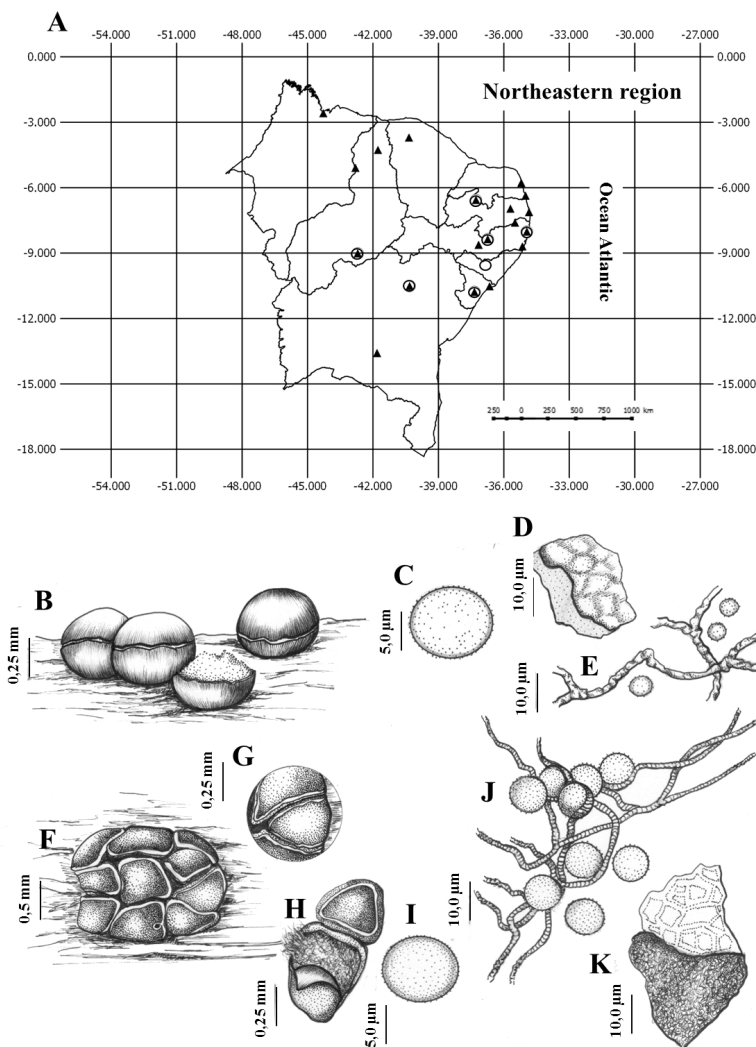


Figure 2. A. Geographical distribution of *Perichaena corticis* and *P. depressa* in the Northeast Region of Brazil. B-E *Perichaena corticis*: B. Sporocarp; C. Spore. D. Inner surface of the peridium. E. Capillitium and spores; F-K *Perichaena depressa*: F-H. Sporocarps. I. Spore. J. Capillitium and spores. K. Inner surface of the peridium.

light, 1.5-2 μm diam., up to 5 μm diam. at ramification points, densely spiny (2 μm in length.). Spores in mass yellowish-pink, subglobose, light yellow by transmitted light, spiny, 6-7 μm diam.

Distribution in the Northeast Region of Brazil: BA (Torrend 1916); PE - 18 (Cavalcanti 2015).

With few records in European, Asiatic and North American countries, *P. microspora* is rare in the Neotropics, with known occurrences only in Cuba, Costa Rica and Brazil (Lado & Basanta 2008; Cavalcanti 2015).

Torrend (1916) included *P. microspora* in his list of species for the state of Bahia. However, exsiccates were not located in the collection of the URM herbarium, where almost all collections made by him in Brazil were deposited. Exsiccate UFP 5070 was collected in Pernambuco in 1980 in a semi-deciduous seasonal forest environment, on dead leaves (Tabs. 1-2) and identified in the same year by one of

the authors. It was recorded in the Southeast Region for the first time by Cavalcanti (2015), based on an exsiccate deposited at the MA - fungi Herbarium, collected also in a semi-deciduous seasonal forest environment in the state of São Paulo by C. Lado & R. C. Maimoni-Rodella.

6. *Perichaena pedata* (Lister & G. Lister) Lister ex E. Jahn, Ber. Deutsch. Bot. Ges. 36: 667. 1919. Fig. 3A, F-I.

Hypothallus inconspicuous. Sporocarp solitary, stalked. Stalk dark brown, cylindrical, grainy, 0.1-0.3 mm long. Sporotheca globose, yellowish-orange, 0.1-0.5 mm diam. Peridium simple, persistent at the base, yellowish-orange, containing grains of refused material; dehiscence apical, irregular. Capillitium abundant, yellow, elastic, filaments branched, marked by short spines (2-3 μm long). Spores in mass yellow, globose, uniformly warted, yellow by transmitted light, 10-12 μm diam.

Distribution in the Northeast Region of Brazil: First record for Brazil. BA – 2; PE – 22; PB – 15 (this paper).

This species was originally described by A. Lister and G. Lister as a variety of *P. variabilis* (= *P. vermicularis*), based in seven specimens found in 1902 on dead leaves, in Lime Regis, a coastal town in West Dorset, England. It was also considered a variety of *P. chrysosperma* (Torrend 1908; Lister 1925) but Jahn (1919) treated it as a distinct species, as early noted by Lister & Lister (1904). In the Neotropics *P. pedata* has been previously reported from Mexico, Costa Rica and Ecuador (Lado & Basanta 2008) and this is its first record from Brazil, based in specimens developed on bark of living trees in a moist chamber culture (RPPN Serra do Teimoso, BA; Guaribas Biological Reserve, PB; Charles Darwin Ecological Refuge, PE).

7. *Perichaena vermicularis* (Schwein.) Rostaf., Sluzowce Monogr. 34. 1876. Fig. 3A, J-M.

Hypothallus inconspicuous. Plasmodiocarp, rarely sporocarp, globose, sessile, grouped or isolated, reddish-brown to ochraceous, total height 0.3-0.5 (-0.8) mm. Peridium double; dehiscence irregular, persistent at the base; external layer containing refused material, inner layer membranous, papillose. Capillitium tubular, scanty, filaments 2-3 μm diam., branched, smooth either with short spines or small warts. Spores in mass yellow-ochraceous, globose to ellipsoid, yellow almost hyaline by transmitted light, minutely spiny, 8-9 (11) μm diam.

Distribution in the Northeast Region of Brazil: BA - 9; PE - 15; 18 (Cavalcanti 2015).

The collection of the UFP herbarium has nine specimens of *P. vermicularis*, predominantly collected on the

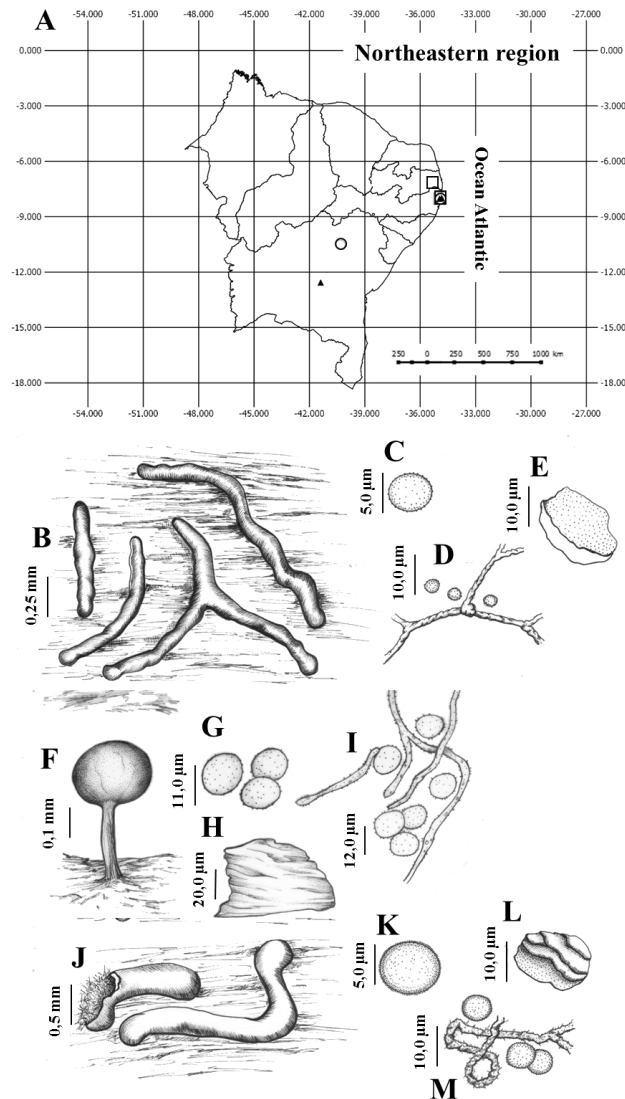


Figure 3. A. Geographical distribution of *Perichaena microspora*, *P. pedata* and *P. vermicularis* in the Northeast Region of Brazil. B-E *Perichaena microspora*: B. Plasmodiocarp. C. Spore. D. Capillitium and spores. E. Inner surface of the peridium; F-I *Perichaena pedata*: F. Sporocarp. G. Spores. H. Inner surface of the peridium. I. Capillitium and spores; J-M *Perichaena vermicularis*: J. Plasmodiocarp; K. Spore. L. Inner surface of the peridium. M. Capillitium and spores.



cortex of living trees and occasionally on dead tree trunks in parks and residential gardens (Tabs. 1-2).

The occurrence of *P. vermicularis* on the cortex of living trees has been recorded by different authors, such as Basanta (1998, on the cortex of *Quercus ilex*, Fagaceae) in Spain and by Cavalcanti (1974b) on *Vochysia tucanorum* (Vochysiaceae) and *Aspidosperma tomentosum* (Apocynaceae) in the cerrado of Emas, São Paulo.

The species is uncommon in the Northeast Region, with a few records in the municipalities of Recife and Olinda, in Pernambuco (Cavalcanti 1974a; Bezerra & Cavalcanti 2007) and in Lençóis, BA, in the Diamantina Plateau (Gusmão *et al.* 2005). In Pernambuco, all exsiccates were collected in an urban environment (Tab. 1). Specimens collected on living tree trunks of *Terminalia*

catappa (Combretaceae), in Olinda, PE, about 1 km from the coastline, showed small plasmodiocarps, with scanty capillitium and with spores of smaller diameter than normally described for the species, as also observed by Lado & Pando (1997). The remaining characteristics are typical for the species. In Bahia, it was found in the APA of Marimbus (HUEFS 84703), that encompasses a variety of ecosystems such as rupestrian fields, savannahs, stepical savannahs and seasonal forests, aside from marimbús, marsh-like environments into which most of the water of the Diamantina Plateau is drained (Tab. 1). Aside from the Northeast Region, *P. vermicularis* has been known to occur towards the Central-West Region (Federal District) in an environment of Cerrado and in the Southeast Region (SP), in Atlantic Forest (Cavalcanti 2015).

Key for the species of *Perichaena* occurring in the Northeast Region of Brazil

1. Sporophore plasmodiocarpic, occasionally accompanied by sporocarps 2
1. Sporophore sporocarpic, sessile or stalked 4
 2. Capillitium-threads 3-4 µm diam., with long spines of up to 5µm in length ***P. chryosperma***
 2. Capillitium-threads 1.5-2.5 µm diam., with warts or short spines of up to 2 µm in length. 3
 3. Peridium double; spore 10-15 µm diam. ***P. vermicularis***
 3. Peridium simple; spore 6-7 µm diam. ***P. microspora***
4. Sporocarp stalked to almost sessile, isolated or rarely in groups of two or three; dehiscence irregular, areola-shaped or in polygonal plates. 5
4. Sporocarp sessile, densely grouped, seldom sparse, dehiscence circumscissile 6
 5. Stalk developed, up to 0.7 mm long; dehiscence irregular apical or areola-shaped; spore (8) 9-10 µm diam. ***P. pedata***
 5. Stalk very short, up to 0.35 mm long or absent; dehiscence by polygonal plates; spore 10-13.5 µm diam. ***P. calongei***
 6. Sporotheca flattened, base fully supported by the substrate, dehiscence line on the bottom third, close to the base; spore spinose, 9-11 µm diam. ***P. depressa***
 6. Sporotheca subglobose, base not fully supported by the substrate, average dehiscence line; spore faintly warted, 12-14 µm diam. ***P. corticalis***

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