



CAES SEMINAR SERIES

In person and on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87167600842?pwd=MUFDTzl6RVNpdWxBL2xVYlV1MHp2QT09>

Meeting ID: 871 6760 0842

Passcode: de3KWP

“New Fungal Species and New Plant Diseases”

Dr. DeWei Li

**Chief Scientist, Department Head
Valley Laboratory**

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Food and coffee will be available at 11:45 a.m.

Jones Auditorium

**The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT**

There are between 2.2 and 3.8 million fungal species according to Hawksworth and Lücking (2017). However, >90% of fungi remain undescribed. Thus, studies on fungal diversity and taxonomy are crucial to discover new fungal species and to understand their functions in ecosystems and agriculture. In the last five years, a number of new fungal species have been described by the author and his collaborators, among these new species *Striatibotrys neoeucylindrosporus*, *Botrytrichum domesticum*, *Fusarium rosicola*, *Phytophthora abietivora* will be covered in this presentation. The four fungi were studied from both morphology and multi-locus phylogeny. *Striatibotrys neoeucylindrosporus* and *Botrytrichum domesticum* are saprobes. *Fusarium rosicola* and *Phytophthora abietivora* are not only new fungal species, but also pathogens causing newly emerged and severe plant diseases. Koch's postulates tests confirmed their pathogenicity. *Fusarium rosicola* causes vascular wilt on rose (*Rosa chinensis*). *Phytophthora abietivora* causes root rot of Christmas trees (*Abies fraseri*).