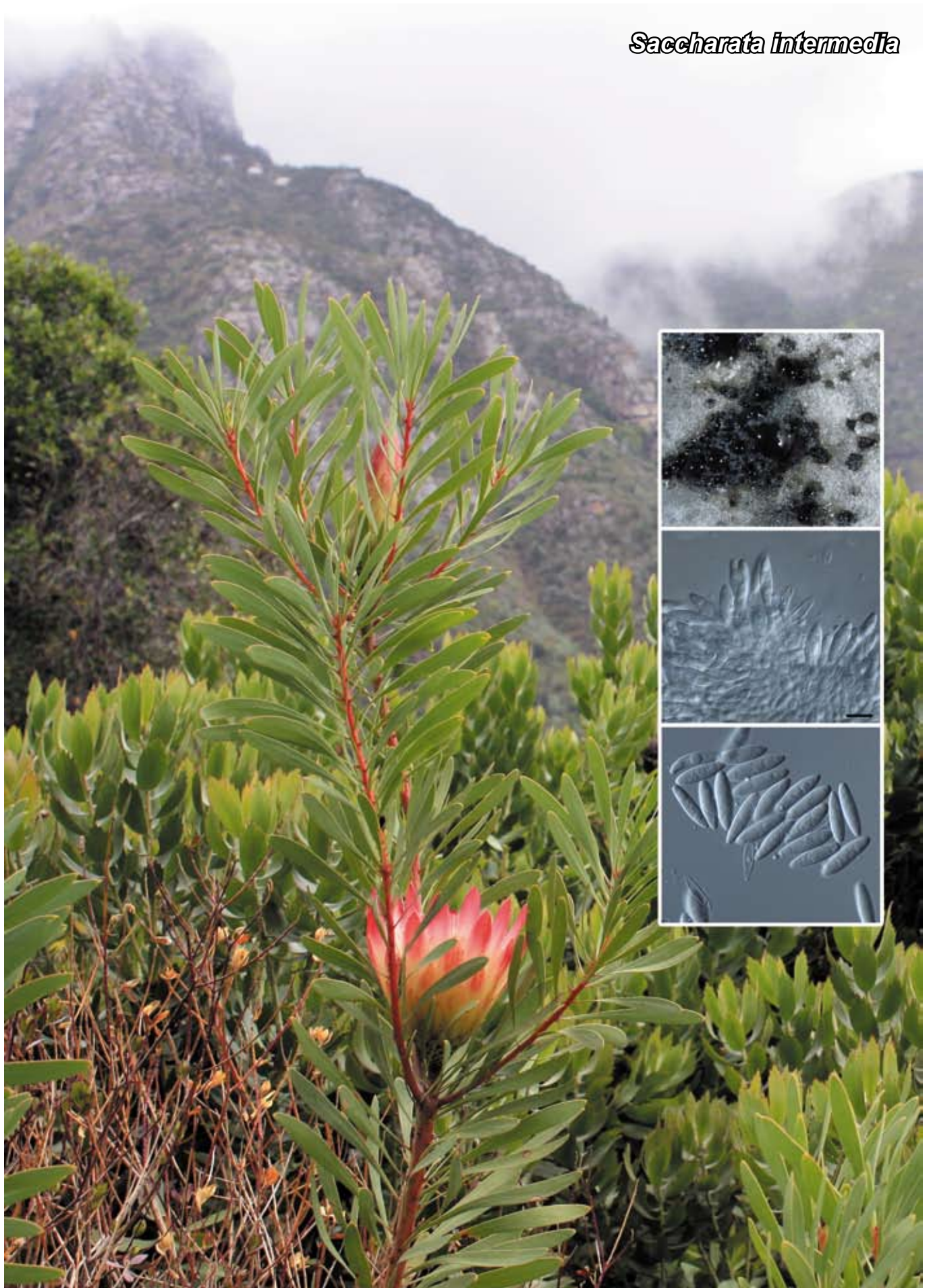


Saccharata intermedia



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Saccharata intermedia Crous & Joanne E. Taylor, *sp. nov.*

Saccharata proteae similis, sed conidiis minoribus, (17–)18–20(–22) × (3.5–)5–6 µm.

Etymology. Named after its conidial dimensions, which are intermediate in size between those of *S. proteae* and *S. kirstenboschensis*.

Conidiomata on potato-dextrose agar (PDA) pycnidial, black, up to 300 µm diam, with a single, central ostiole; wall consisting of 2–3 layers of brown *textura angularis*. *Conidiophores* subcylindrical, hyaline, smooth, frequently reduced to conidigenous cells or branched in apical part, 1–2-septate, 10–20 × 2–3.5 µm. *Conidigenous cells* terminal, subcylindrical, hyaline, 10–15 × 2–3 µm; apex with periclinal thickening, rarely with percurrent proliferation. *Paraphyses* intermingled among conidiophores, unbranched hyaline, smooth, 0–1-septate, 2–3 µm wide, extending above conidiophores. *Conidia* hyaline, smooth, fusiform to narrowly ellipsoid, apex subobtuse, base truncate with minute marginal frill, minutely guttulate, thin-walled, (17–)18–20(–22) × (3.5–)5–6 µm.

Culture characteristics — Colonies on PDA at 25 °C in the dark after 2 wk: 20 mm diam, spreading, erumpent, surface crumpled, irregular, with smooth margin and moderate aerial mycelium, lavender-grey with patches of leaden-black; leaden-grey in reverse; similar on oatmeal agar (OA) and 2 % malt extract agar (MEA; Oxoid).

Typus. SOUTH AFRICA, Western Cape Province, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, on leaves of *Protea* sp., 9 Aug. 2008, J.E. Taylor, CBS H-20347, holotype, culture ex-type CPC 15557 = CBS 125546, CPC 15558, 15559; GenBank (ITS: GU229888; LSU: GU229889), MycoBank MB514708.

Notes — Three species of *Saccharata* are presently known, namely *S. proteae* (conidia 20–30 × 4.5–6 µm), and *S. capensis* (conidia 13–18 × 3.5–5.5 µm) on *Proteaceae*, and *S. kirstenboschensis* (conidia (16–)18–22(–24) × 3.5–4(–5) µm), which occurs on *Encephalartos*^{1–3}. *Saccharata intermedia*, which also occurs on *Proteaceae*, represents an intermediate species, and has conidia similar in length to those of *S. kirstenboschensis*, though somewhat wider (17–)18–20(–22) × (3.5–)5–6 µm. All species of *Saccharata* described to date occur on host plants indigenous to South Africa.

BLASTn results of the ITS sequence (Genbank GU229888) revealed that *S. intermedia* is 97 % identical to *Saccharata proteae* (Genbank FJ150708) and *Saccharata kirstenboschensis* (Genbank FJ372392) and 95 % identical to *Saccharata capensis* (Genbank EU552129). BLASTn results of the LSU sequence (Genbank GU229889) supported the association of this species with *Saccharata* with 99 % identity to both *Saccharata proteae* (Genbank EU552145) and *Saccharata capensis* (Genbank EU552129).

Colour illustrations. Collection site in Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, Cape Town, South Africa; fungal colony growing on PDA; conidigenous cells giving rise to conidia; fusiform conidia. Scale bar = 10 µm.

References. ¹Denman S, Crous PW, Wingfield MJ. 1999. A taxonomic reassessment of Phyllachora proteae, a leaf pathogen of Proteaceae. Mycologia 91: 510–516. ²Crous PW, Wood AR, Okada G, Groenewald JZ. 2008. Follicolous microfungi occurring on Encephalartos. Persoonia 21: 135–146. ³Marincowitz S, Groenewald JZ, Wingfield MJ, Crous PW. 2008. Species of Botryosphaeriaceae occurring on Proteaceae. Persoonia 21: 111–118.

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