Pseudocercospora nephrolepidicola
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Crous & R.G. Shivas, *sp. nov.*

**Teleomorph.** Mycosphaerella-like.

*Pseudocercospora* *nephrolepidis* similis, sed conidiis minoribus, (40–)50–60 (–95) × (2.5–)3.5 (–4) μm, distinguitur.

**Etymology.** Named after the host from which it was collected, *Nephrolepis* (*Lomariopsidaceae*).

**Leaf spots** amphiogenous, medium brown, with indistinct margins, 2–12 mm diam. *Conidiomata* pale to medium brown, amphiogenous, fasciculate, arising from a well-developed subepidermal, medium brown stroma, up to 150 μm wide, and 50 μm high. *Mycelium* consisting of smooth, septate, brown, branched, 2–3 μm diam hyphae. *Conidiophores* subcylindrical, medium brown, smooth, unbranched or branched below, irregularly geniculate-sinuous, in loosely aggregated fascicles, or separate on superficial mycelium, 1–4-septate, 25–45 (–90) × 2.5–3 (–3.5) μm. *Conidiogenous cells* terminal on conidiophore, integrated, subcylindrical, pale brown, smooth, proliferating 1–2 times percurrently near apex, 15–25 (–40) × (2–)2.5 (–3) μm. *Conidia* medium brown, smooth, guttulate, subcylindrical, straight to irregularly flexuous, apex obtusely rounded, base truncate, 3–6 (–9)-septate, (40–)50–60 (–95) × (2.5–)3.5 (–4) μm; hila not thickened nor darkened. *Ascomata* globose, erumpent, brown, up to 80 μm diam, with a central ostiole. Asci subcylindrical to narrowly obovoid, 35–50 × 8–10 μm. *Ascospores* fusoid-ellipsoidal, widest in middle of apical cell, tapering towards both ends, apex acutely rounded, constricted at septum, 9–11 × 2.5–3.5 μm.

**Culture characteristics** — (in the dark, 25 °C, after 2 wk): Colonies spreading, erumpent, with folded surface and even, lobate margins, reaching up to 15 mm diam. On potato-dextrose agar surface smoke-grey with patches of grey-olivaceous, iron-grey in reverse; on malt extract agar surface smoke-grey with patches of grey-olivaceous, iron-grey in reverse; on oatmeal agar olivaceous-grey, with indistinct margins, 2–12 mm diam. *Ascomata* (up to 75 μm diam) with straight to mildly curved obclavate conidia, 20–80 × 2–3.5 μm², than the Australian specimen. A megablast search of NCBI's Genbank nucleotide database using the LSU sequence retrieved as closest sister *Mycosphaerella quasiparkii* (GenBank EU882143; Identities = 807/808 (99 %), Gaps = 0/808 (0 %)), *Rosenscheldiella brachyglottidis* (GenBank GQ355334; Identities = 874/886 (99 %), Gaps = 0/886 (0 %)), *Mycosphaerella swartii* (GenBank DG923536; Identities = 865/888 (96 %), Gaps = 3/888 (0 %)) and *Pseudocercospora vitis* (GenBank GU214483; Identities = 864/889 (96 %), Gaps = 5/889 (0 %)). A megablast with the ITS sequence revealed high identity to *Mycosphaerella* sp. DeNo (GenBank HM189290; Identities = 481/482 (99 %), Gaps = 0/482 (0 %)), *M. quasiparkii* (GenBank EU882127; Identities = 573/597 (96 %), Gaps = 17/597 (2 %)) and *Pseudocercospora schizolobii* (GenBank GQ852765; Identities = 571/610 (94 %), Gaps = 28/610 (4 %)).

**Notes.** There are several specimens of *Pseudocercospora* spp. on *Nephrolepis* in BRIP, which cannot easily be identified using morphology alone. *Pseudocercospora nephrolepidicola* is morphologically and phylogenetically distinct from *P. nephrolepidis* (on *Nephrolepis cordifolia* (as *N. auriculata*) in Taiwan¹; conidia subcylindrical, (32–)67–101 (–113) × 2–3 μm, 2–9 septate; CBS 119121), in that its conidia are shorter, and wider. Furthermore, *Pseudocercospora phylilitidis*, which was described from leaves of *Nephrolepis* sp. from Florida, has smaller stromata (up to 75 μm diam) with straight to mildly curved obclavate conidia, 20–80 × 2–3.5 μm², than the Australian specimen. A megablast search of NCBI's Genbank nucleotide database using the LSU sequence retrieved as closest sister *Mycosphaerella quasiparkii* (GenBank EU882143; Identities = 807/808 (99 %), Gaps = 0/808 (0 %)), *Rosenscheldiella brachyglottidis* (GenBank GQ355334; Identities = 874/886 (99 %), Gaps = 0/886 (0 %)), *Mycosphaerella swartii* (GenBank DG923536; Identities = 865/888 (96 %), Gaps = 3/888 (0 %)) and *Pseudocercospora vitis* (GenBank GU214483; Identities = 864/889 (96 %), Gaps = 5/889 (0 %)).


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