Scorias leucadendri
**Scorias leucadendri** Crous, sp. nov.

Scorias spongiosae simile, sed conidiis majoribus, 3–4(–5) × 1.5(–2) µm, discernitur.

**Etymology.** Named after the host genus from which it was collected, Leucadendron.

Leaf spots absent, sporulating on dead tissue under moist conditions. On synthetic nutrient poor agar. Mycelium consisting of olivaceous green hyphae, 2–6 µm diam, septate, branched, constricted at septa, forming hyphal ropes, thick-walled, warty, frequently encased in mucoid sheath. Conidiomata pycnidial, stalked, flask-shaped, separate or in clusters of 2–4, erect, straight to slightly flexuous, base brown, 20–30 µm diam, widest in middle of subcylindrical part, dark olivaceous brown, swollen, 180–600 × 16–50 µm; body consisting of dark brown, spirally twisted hyphae running along the length of conidiomata, 3–5 µm diam; apex 12–17 µm diam, loose apical hyphae flaring, subhyaline, septate, 35–100 × 2.5–3.5 µm. Conidiogenous cells lining the inner cavity, phialidic, 3–6 × 3–4 µm, tapering to a truncate apex, with periclinal thickening. Conidia broadly ellipsoid with rounded ends, aseptate, eguttulate, hyaline, smooth, 3–4(–5) × 1.5(–2) µm, aggregating in hyaline, slimy masses at apex of synnemata.

**Culture characteristics — (in the dark, 25 °C, after 2 wk):** Colonies spreading, flat, with sparse to moderate aerial mycelium, and even, lobate margins; reaching 20 mm diam after 2 wk. On potato-dextrose agar grey olivaceous on surface and underneath. On malt extract agar surface olivaceous black and slimy in centre, grey olivaceous in outer region, iron-grey underneath. On oatmeal agar olivaceous grey in centre, iron-grey in outer region.


Notes — *Scorias leucadendri* is a typical species of *Scorias* with its elongated, flask-shaped pycnidia, narrow neck and ostiolar hyphae, though it is reminiscent of *Leptoxyphium* (Cheewangkoon et al. 2009, Crous et al. 2011a). It is distinct from other species of *Scorias* based on it having a body consisting of dark brown, spirally twisted hyphae running along the length of its conidiophores, its conidial dimensions, and lacking a sponge-like subiculum. A megablast search of the NCBI's GenBank nucleotide sequence database using the ITS sequence of *L. leucadendri* retrieves as closest hits *Scorias spongiosa* (GenBank GU214696; Identities = 629/646 (97 %), Gaps = 4/646 (1 %)), *Antennariella placitae* (GenBank GQ303268; Identities = 455/495 (92 %), Gaps = 22/495 (4 %)) and *Leptoxyphium kurandae* (GenBank JF951150; Identities = 583/661 (88 %), Gaps = 44/661 (7 %)), amongst others. A megablast search of the NCBI's GenBank nucleotide sequence database using the LSU sequence of *L. leucadendri* retrieves as closest hits *Scorias spongiosa* (GenBank GU214696; Identities = 935/942 (99 %), Gaps = 4/942 (0 %)), *Fumagospora capnodioides* (GenBank EU019269; Identities = 844/872 (97 %), Gaps = 10/872 (1 %)) and *Graphiposis chlorocephala* (GenBank EU009458; Identities = 912/945 (97 %), Gaps = 14/945 (1 %)), amongst others.

**Colour illustrations.** *Leucadendron muirii* growing in Fernkloof Nature Reserve, Hermanus, South Africa; colonies sporulating on malt extract agar; conidiomata with spirally twisted hyphae along the length of conidiophores, and loose apical hyphae; conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.