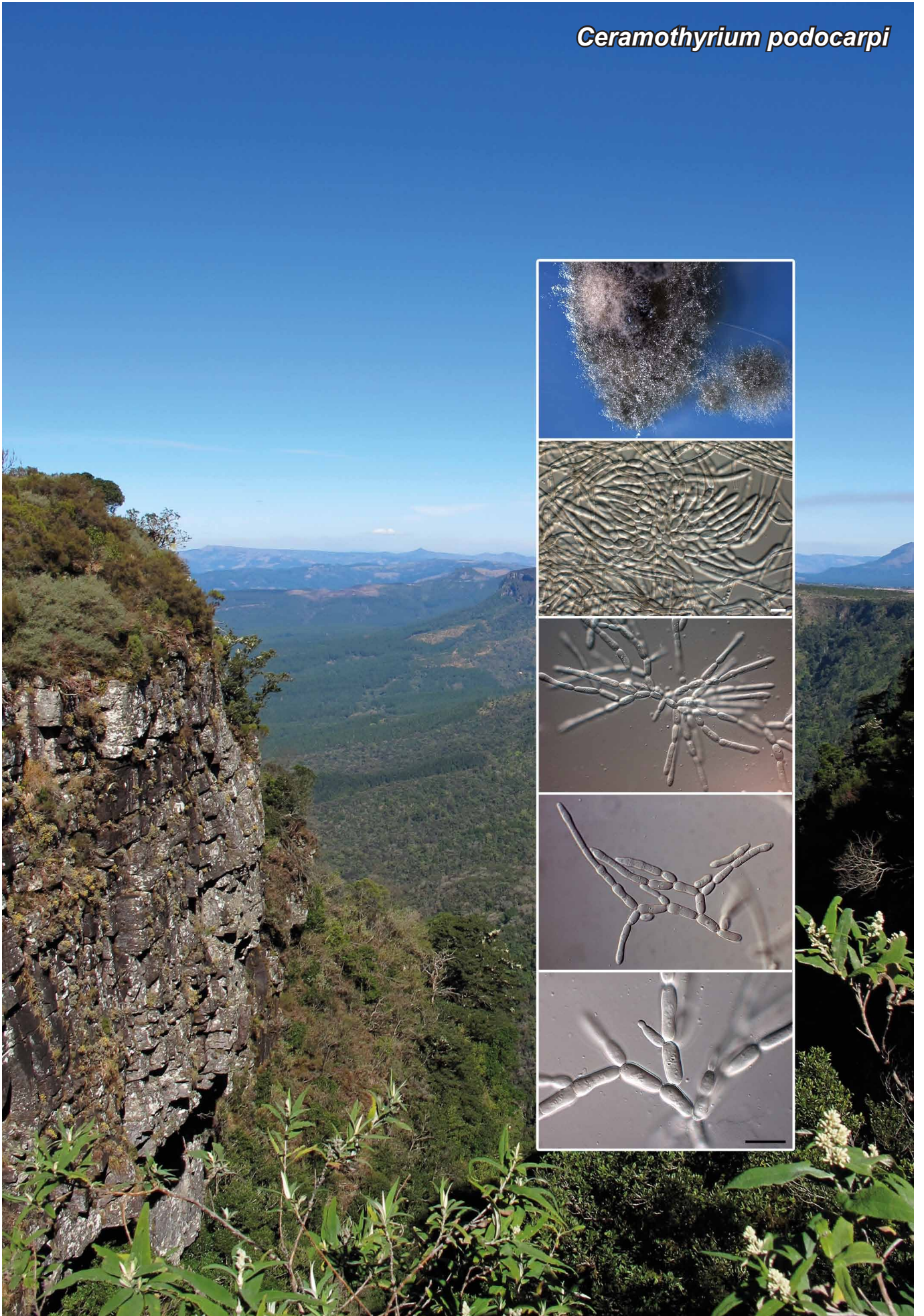


Ceramothyrium podocarpi



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Ceramothyrium podocarp Crous, *sp. nov.*

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

Description of colonies sporulating on synthetic nutrient-poor agar. *Mycelium* consisting of pale brown, septate, branched, smooth, 3–4 µm diam hyphae, frequently constricted at septa. *Conidiophores* reduced to conidiogenous cells. *Conidiogenous cells* integrated, lateral on hyphae, 20–30 × 3–5 µm, phialidic with small collarette, solitary, 1 µm high, 1–2 µm wide, rather inconspicuous. *Conidia* highly variable regarding morphology, hyaline to subhyaline, smooth, obclavate, but quickly constricting at septa, and developing lateral branches, which again branch further, forming a star-shaped conidium with numerous branches; conidial cells 4–6 µm wide, arms 25–90 µm long, 1–9-septate, apices obtuse, base truncate, with hilum 1.5–2 µm diam, at times with marginal frill.

Culture characteristics — (in the dark, 25 °C after 2 wk): Colonies on potato-dextrose agar, malt extract agar and oat-meal agar erumpent, spreading, with uneven, feathery margins and sparse aerial mycelium. Surface folded, pale olivaceous-grey; reverse olivaceous-grey, reaching 10 mm diam.

Typus. SOUTH AFRICA, Mpumalanga, Drakensberg escarpment, God's Window, on leaves of *Podocarpus falcatus* (*Podocarpaceae*), 14 July 2011, P.W. Crous, holotype CBS H-21079, culture ex-type CPC 19826 = CBS 133578, ITS sequence GenBank KC005773, LSU sequence GenBank KC005795, MycoBank MB801773.

Notes — Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the LSU sequence are *Ceramothyrium thailandicum* (GenBank HQ895835; Identities = 817/843 (97 %), Gaps = 2/843 (0 %)), *Ceramothyrium carniolicum* (GenBank FJ358232; Identities = 811/845 (96 %), Gaps = 3/845 (0 %)) and *Cyphellophora hylomeconis* (GenBank EU035415; Identities = 809/844 (96 %), Gaps = 2/844 (0 %)). Closest hits using the ITS sequence had highest similarity to *Cyphellophora hylomeconis* (GenBank EU035415; Identities = 510/593 (86 %), Gaps = 39/593 (7 %)), *Exophiala eucalyptorum* (GenBank EU035417; Identities = 500/587 (85 %), Gaps = 25/587 (4 %)), and *Cyphellophora eugeniae* (GenBank FJ839617; Identities = 514/606 (85 %), Gaps = 36/606 (6 %)).

The genus *Ceramothyrium* has *Stanhughesia* asexual morphs (Constantinescu et al. 1989) and represents a genus of epiphyllous ascomycetes in the *Chaetothyriales* for which DNA data has been lacking until the recent study of Chomnunti et al. (2012). Although only the asexual morph of *Ceramothyrium podocarp* was observed in the present study, we choose to name it in the older sexual genus, *Ceramothyrium* (1955; with 34 taxa), accepting *Stanhughesia* (1989; with only four taxa, three having existing names in *Ceramothyrium*) as later synonym.

Colour illustrations. View from God's Window, Mpumalanga; colony growing on synthetic nutrient-poor agar; conidiophores giving rise to star-shaped conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.