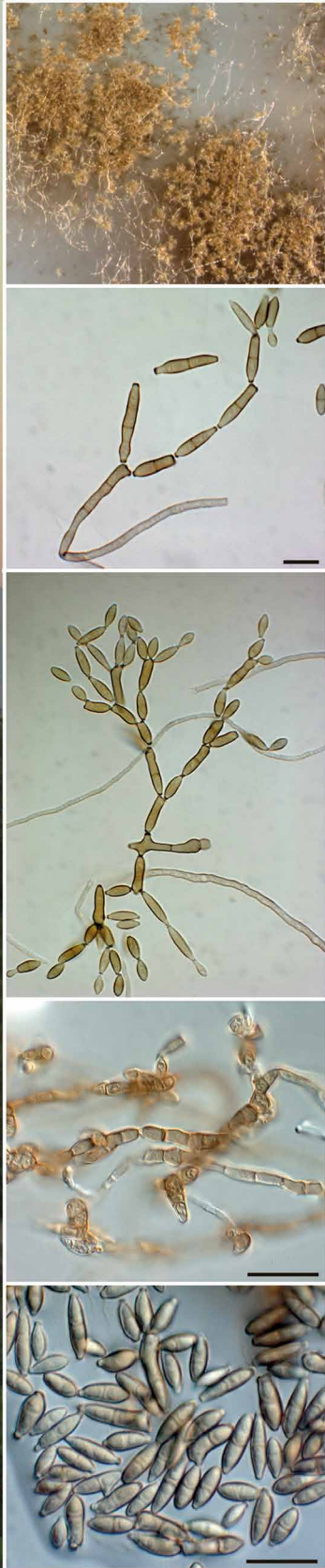


Toxicocladosporium ficiniae



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***Toxicocladosporium ficiniae* Crous & A.R. Wood, sp. nov.**

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

Leaf spots absent, sporulating on dead tissue. On SNA: *Mycelium* consisting of branched, septate, smooth, pale brown, 2–3 µm diam hyphae. *Conidiophores* solitary, arising from superficial mycelium, erect, brown, unbranched or branched above, subcylindrical, straight to flexuous, 10–40 × 3–5 µm, 1–15-septate, apical septum becoming dark brown and thickened. *Conidiogenous cells* integrated, polyblastic, terminal and lateral, smooth, brown, 5–15 × 2.5–4 µm; scars truncate, thickened and darkened, 1.5–2 µm wide. *Primary ramoconidia* medium brown, smooth to finely verruculose, aseptate, subcylindrical, 15–35 × 3–4 µm. *Secondary ramoconidia* giving rise to branched chains of conidia, subcylindrical, polyblastic, brown, smooth to finely verruculose, 0–1-septate, 12–20 × 2.5–3 µm; scars darkened, thickened, 1.5–2 µm diam. *Intercalary conidia* subcylindrical to fusoid-ellipsoidal, brown, smooth to finely verruculose, (9–)10–11 × (2.5–)3 µm. *Small terminal conidia* fusoid-ellipsoidal, brown, smooth to finely verruculose, (7–)8–9 × (2.5–)3 µm; hila thickened and darkened, 1–1.5 µm diam.

Culture characteristics — Colonies after 2 wk reaching 30 mm diam, erumpent, folded, with even, smooth margins, and moderate aerial mycelium. On MEA surface pale olivaceous-grey in centre, and olivaceous-grey in outer region, iron-grey underneath. On OA olivaceous-grey in centre, with pale olivaceous-grey aerial mycelium, surrounded by a prominent scarlet to red zone in agar; on PDA centre pale olivaceous-grey, outer region isabelline, with pale brown pigment diffusing into agar; reverse brown-vinaceous.

Typus. SOUTH AFRICA, Western Cape Province, Bracken Nature Reserve, on leaves of *Ficinia indica* (*Cyperaceae*), 18 Aug. 2012, A. Wood (holotype CBS H-21413, culture ex-type CPC 21283, 21282 = CBS 136406, ITS sequence GenBank KF777190, LSU sequence GenBank KF777241, MycoBank MB805812).

Notes — The genus *Toxicocladosporium* was established by Crous et al. (2007a) to accommodate cladosporium-like taxa with subdenticulate conidiogenous loci, and somewhat thickened, conspicuously darkened-refractive loci. Since the genus was established, several additional taxa have been added (Crous et al. 2009b, 2010a, b, 2012a, c, Crous & Groenewald 2011, Bensch et al. 2012).

Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the LSU sequence are *Toxicocladosporium strelitziae* (GenBank JX069858; Identities = 877/885 (99 %), no gaps), *T. irritans* (GenBank EU040243; Identities = 877/885 (99 %), no gaps) and *T. posoqueriae* (GenBank KC005803; Identities = 875/885 (99 %), no gaps). Closest hits using the ITS sequence had highest similarity to *T. veloxum* (GenBank FJ790288; Identities = 595/612 (97 %), Gaps = 4/612 (0 %)), *T. pseudoveloxum* (GenBank JF499849; Identities = 630/649 (97 %), Gaps = 2/649 (0 %)) and *T. banksiae* (GenBank HQ599598; Identities = 659/679 (97 %), Gaps = 3/679 (0 %)).

Colour illustrations. Bracken Nature Reserve; conidiophores and conidia in culture. Scale bars = 10 µm.

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