

Pallidocercospora ventilago



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Pallidocercospora ventilago Crous & Cheew., *sp. nov.*

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

Conidiomata pycnidial, globose, erumpent, brown, with central ostiole, up to 150 µm diam, exuding a pale brown conidial mass; wall of 3–6 layers of brown *textura angularis*. *Conidiophores* reduced to conidiogenous cells. *Conidiogenous cells* ampulliform, medium brown, smooth to finely verruculose with several prominent percurrent proliferations near apex, 7–15 × 3–6 µm. *Conidia* solitary, scolecosporous, curved, guttulate, pale brown, smooth, narrowly obclavate, apex subacutely rounded, base obconically rounded with truncate hilum, 1.5–2 µm diam, with minute marginal frill, 3–7-septate, (30–)50–57(–60) × (2–)2.5(–3) µm.

Culture characteristics — Colonies reaching 20 mm diam after 2 wk; surface folded, margin feathery, aerial mycelium sparse. On MEA surface and reverse iron-grey; on PDA centre pale olivaceous-grey, outer region iron-grey, reverse iron-grey; on OA surface olivaceous-grey.

Typus. THAILAND, Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai Botanical Garden, on leaves of *Ventilago denticulata* (*Rhamnaceae*), 2 Nov. 2012, P.W. Crous (holotype CBS H-21426, culture ex-type CPC 21817, 21818 = CBS 136417, ITS sequence GenBank KF777177, LSU sequence GenBank KF777229, MycoBank MB805826).

Notes — In resolving the *Septoria/Pseudocercospora* complex occurring on pistachio, Crous et al. (2013c) reported that contrary to the recent circumscription of *Pseudocercospora* s.str. (Crous et al. 2013a), a species with pycnidial conidiomata and pigmented conidia, *Septoria pistacina* (= *P. pistacina*), also proved to be a member of *Pseudocercospora*. In this study reference was also made to a member of *Pallidocercospora* that had pycnidial conidiomata, which is described here as *P. ventilago*. In both *Pseudocercospora* and *Pallidocercospora*, there thus appears to be a continuum of conidiomatal morphologies.

Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the LSU sequence are *Mycosphaerella holualoana* (= *Pallidocercospora holualoana*; GenBank JF770467; Identities = 875/878 (99 %), no gaps), *M. heimii* (= *P. heimii*; GenBank GU214439; Identities = 875/878 (99 %), no gaps) and *M. heimii* (= *P. heimii*; GenBank GU214438; Identities = 875/878 (99 %), no gaps). Closest hits using the ITS sequence had highest similarity to *M. heimii* (= *P. heimii*; GenBank EU882122; Identities = 612/619 (99 %), Gaps = 0/619 (0 %)), *M. crystallina* (= *P. crystallina*; GenBank JQ732911; Identities = 641/649 (99 %), Gaps = 1/649 (0 %)) and *M. acaciigena* (= *P. acaciigena*; GenBank EF394822; Identities = 589/598 (98 %), Gaps = 1/598 (0 %)).

Colour illustrations. Symptomatic leaves of *Ventilago denticulata* in Chiang Mai Botanical Garden; leaf spot, colony on OA, vertical section through conidioma, conidiogenous cells and conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.

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