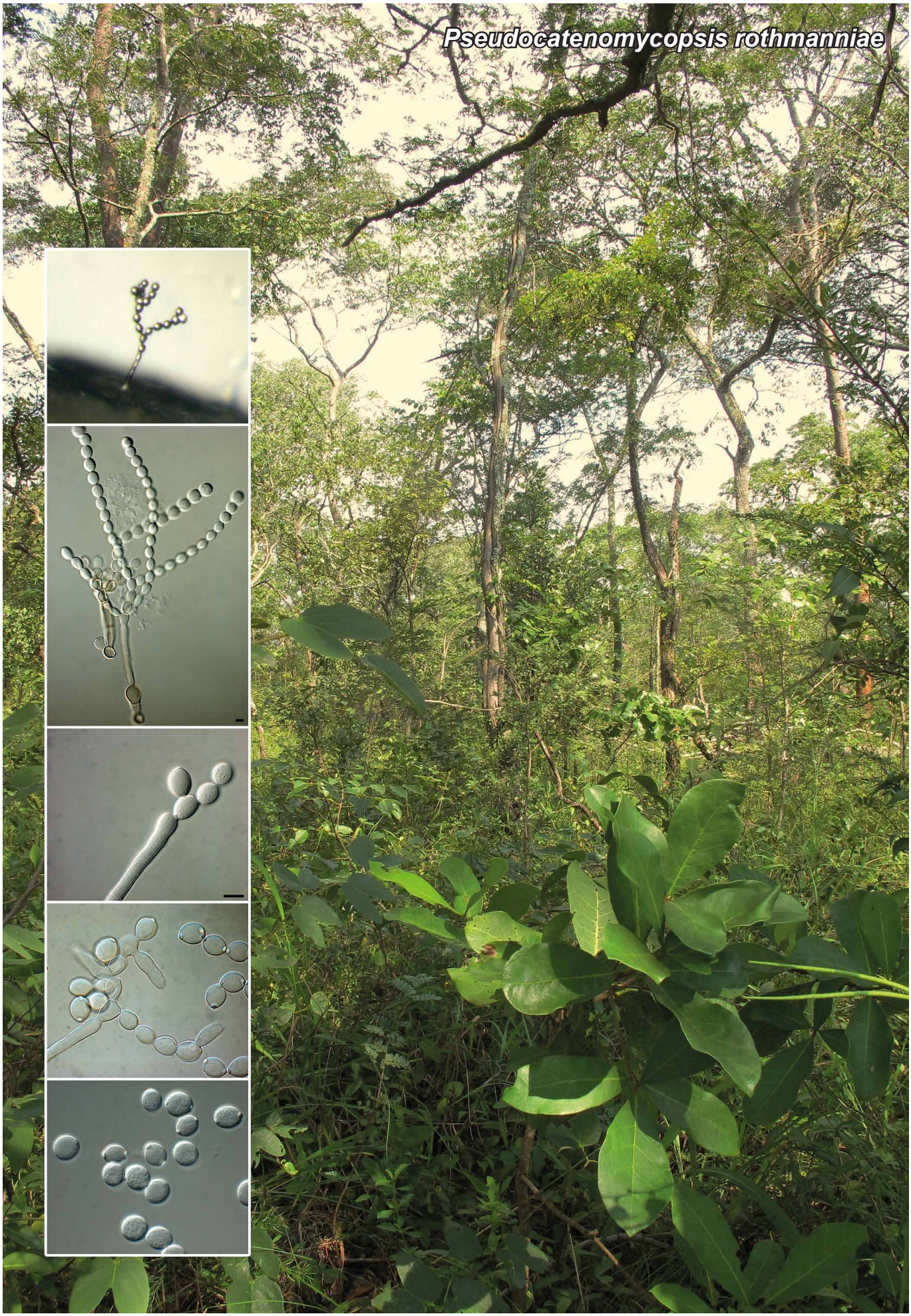
Pseudocatenomycopsis rothmanniae

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Pseudocatenomycopsis Crous & L.A. Shuttlew., *gen. nov*.

Etymology. Named after its morphological similarity to the genus *Catenomycopsis*.

Mycelium consisting of hyaline, smooth, branched, septate hyphae. *Conidiophores* erect, solitary, smooth, straight to flexuous, initially hyaline and smooth, becoming brown; base lacking rhizoids, not swollen, forming a T-cell, multiseptate, generally not constricted at septa. *Conidiogenous apparatus* apical, consisting of a conidiogenous cell giving rise to chains of branched conidia, or a ramoconidium giving rise to conidial chains. *Conidiogenous cells* hyaline, smooth (becoming brown with age), subcylindrical, with flattened, unthickened scars; in some cases hila have convex thickening, extending into the conidiogenous cell, slightly reflective. *Ramoconidia* 0–1-septate fusoid-ellipsoid to doliiform or subcylindrical, hyaline, smooth, but turning brown with age, with 1–3 flattened scars that can be thickened, giving rise to conidial chains or a few cylindrical hyphal-like cells that again become fertile, forming conidial chains, but chains can also again form ramoconidia higher up, giving rise to newly branched conidial chains. *Conidia* aseptate, hyaline, smooth, ellipsoid to ovoid, granular, ends with truncate, flattened scars that can have a convex thickening extending into the conidium, and that are somewhat refractive.

Type species. Pseudocatenomycopsis rothmanniae.
MycoBank MB805836.

Pseudocatenomycopsis rothmanniae Crous & L.A. Shuttlew., *sp. nov*.

Etymology. Named after the host genus on which it occurs, *Rothmannia*.

Colonies growing well on OA. *Mycelium* consisting of hyaline, smooth, branched, septate, 3–4 µm diam hyphae. *Conidiophores* erect, solitary, smooth, straight to flexuous, up to 300 µm tall, 5–8 µm diam, initially hyaline and smooth, becoming brown; base lacking rhizoids, not swollen, forming a T-cell, 3–10-septate, generally not constricted at septa. *Conidiogenous apparatus* apical, consisting of a conidiogenous cell giving rise to chains of branched conidia, or a ramoconidium giving rise to conidial chains. *Conidiogenous cells* hyaline, smooth (becoming brown with age), subcylindrical, 10–30 × 10–12 µm, with 1–3 flattened, unthickened scars, 2–3 µm diam; in some cases hila have convex thickening, extending into the conidiogenous cell, slightly reflective. *Ramoconidia* 0–1-septate when present, fusoid-ellipsoid to doliiform or subcylindrical, 10–20 × 8–12 µm, hyaline, smooth, but turning brown with age, with 1–3 flattened scars, 2–3 µm diam, that can be thickened, giving rise to conidial chains or a few cylindrical hyphal-like cells that again become fertile, forming conidial chains, but chains can also again form ramoconidia higher up, giving rise to newly branched conidial chains. *Conidia* (10–)13–16(–18) × (10–)11–13(–14) µm, aseptate, hyaline, smooth, ellipsoid to ovoid, granular, ends with truncate, flattened scars, 3–4 µm diam, that can have a convex thickening extending into the conidium, and that are somewhat refractive.

Culture characteristics — Colonies not growing on MEA, PDA and SNA. Colonies grow well on OA, surface white due to sporulation, but medium turns pale olivaceous-grey; colonies reaching 20 mm diam after 1 mo.

Typus. Zambia, S14°48.514' E24°7.959' on stem of *Rothmannia engleriana* (*Rubiaceae*), Jan. 2013, *L.A. Shuttleworth* (holotype CBS H-21432, culture ex-type CPC 22733, 22734 = CBS 136445, ITS sequence GenBank KF777185, LSU sequence GenBank KF777237, MycoBank MB805837).

Notes — *Pseudocatenomycopsis* resembles the genus *Catenomycopsis* (based on *C. rosea*; sexual morph *Chaenothecopsis haematopus*). Although the genus *Catenomycopsis* is monotypic, more than 80 taxa have been described in *Chaenothecopsis*, with asexual morphs ranging from phialophora-like hyphomycetes to coelomycetes (Tibell & Constantinescu 1991), suggesting that *Chaenothecopsis* is polyphyletic.

Catenomycopsis is characterised by having hyaline, penicillate conidiophores giving rise to branched conidial chains (Tibell & Constantinescu 1991). However, *Pseudocatenomycopsis* can be distinguished by having conidiophores that eventually turn brown, and conidiogenous loci and conidial hila have a prominent convex, reflective thickening, which is absent in *Catenomycopsis*.

Based on a megablast search of NCBIs GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the LSU sequence are *Neofracchiaea callista* (GenBank AY695269; Identities = 853/903 (94 %), Gaps = 6/903 (0 %)), *Cryptosphaerella cylindriformis* (GenBank FJ968973; Identities = 856/907 (94 %), Gaps = 1/907 (0 %)) and *Scortechiniellopsis leonensis* (GenBank FJ968993; Identities = 852/903 (94 %), Gaps = 1/903 (0 %)). Closest hits using the ITS sequence had highest similarity to *Parasympodiella elongata* (GenBank GQ303280; Identities = 539/658 (82 %), Gaps = 28/658 (4 %)), *Parasympodiella laxa* (GenBank GQ303285; Identities = 508/619 (82 %), Gaps = 36/619 (5 %)) and *Parasympodiella eucalypti* (GenBank GQ303284; Identities = 525/648 (81 %), Gaps = 34/648 (5 %)).

Colour illustrations. *Rothmannia engleriana* in Zambia. Conidiophores giving rise to branched chains of conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.

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