Diaporthe diospyricola
Diaporthe diospyricola Crous, sp. nov.

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

On PNA. Conidiomata pycnidial, globose, up to 400 µm diam, black, erumpent, exuding creamy conidial droplets from central ostioles; walls of 3–6 layers of medium brown textura angularis. Conidiophores hyaline, smooth, 2–4-septate, branched, densely aggregated, cylindrical, straight to sinuous, 20–50 × 2.5–4 µm. Conidiogenous cells 7–15 × 1.5–2.5 µm, phialidic, cylindrical, terminal and lateral, with slight taper towards apex, 1–1.5 µm diam, with visible periclinal thickening; collarette not observed. Paraphyses not observed. Alpha conidia aseptate, hyaline, smooth, guttulate, fusoid-ellipsoid, tapering towards both ends, straight, apex subobtuse, base truncate, (5.5–6–7)–(7.5–8) × (2–)2.5–3 × µm. Gamma conidia not observed. Beta conidia spindle-shaped, aseptate, smooth, hyaline, apex acutely rounded, base truncate, tapering from lower third towards apex, curved, (18–)25–27(–30) × 1.5(–2) µm.

Culture characteristics — Colonies covering dish in 2 wk with sparse aerial mycelium. On OA surface dirty white; on MEA centre iron-grey, outer region dirty white, reverse iron-grey in centre, outer region apricot; on PDA surface ochreous, reverse saffron.

Typus. SOUTH AFRICA, Western Cape Province, Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden, on leaves of Diospyros whyteana (Ebenaceae), 30 July 2012, P.W. Crous (holotype CBS H-21450, culture ex-type CPC 21170, 21169 = CBS 136552, ITS sequence GenBank KF777156, LSU sequence GenBank KF777209, MycoBank MB805856).

Notes — Morphologically D. diospyricola has shorter and wider conidia than P. diospyri (Sacc.) Traverso & Spessa (conidia 7–8 × 2 µm), and its homonyms, P. diospyri Zerova (conidia 7.2–9 × 2.1–2.9 µm), P. diospyri Grove (conidia 8–10 × 2 µm) and P. diospyri Bongini (conidia 6–7 × 3.5 µm) (Uecker 1988). Diaporthe diospyricola is also phylogenetically distinct from D. foeniculaceae (= D. diospyri, CBS 287.56; Gomes et al. 2013).

Based on a megablast search of NCBIs GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the LSU sequence are Diaporthe oncostoma (GenBank AF408353; Identities = 852/853 (99 %), no gaps), D. erez (GenBank AF362565; Identities = 851/853 (99 %), no gaps) and D. canthii (GenBank JX069848; Identities = 844/845 (99 %), no gaps). Closest hits using the ITS sequence had highest similarity to Phomopsis sophorae (GenBank JQ694110; Identities = 589/608 (97 %), Gaps = 6/608 (0 %)), D. chamaeropis (GenBank KC343049; Identities = 557/576 (97 %), Gaps = 5/576 (0 %)) and D. neotheicolata (GenBank KC145902; Identities = 583/607 (96 %), Gaps = 9/607 (1 %)).

Colour illustrations. Leaves of Diospyros whyteana in Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden, South Africa; conidioma on PNA; beta and alpha conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.