Phaeosphaeria poae
Phaeosphaeria poae Crous & Quaedvlieg, sp. nov.

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

Conidiomata pycnidial, immersed, pale brown, globose, up to 200 µm diam with central ostiole; wall of 2–3 layers of textura angularis. Conidiophores reduced to conidiogenous cells. Conidiogenous cells ampulliform, hyaline, smooth, 5–7 × 4–5 µm, proliferating inconspicuously percurrently near the apex. Conidia solitary, pale brown, smooth, guttulate, narrowly obclavate to subcylindrical, tapering in upper third to a subobtuse apex, base truncate, 2–3 µm diam, straight to flexuous, (4–)6–8-septate, (38–)43–55(–65) × (3–)3.5–4(–5) µm.

Culture characteristics — Colonies flat, spreading, reaching 60 mm diam after 2 wk at 26 °C, with moderate aerial mycelium and even, lobate margins. On MEA surface dirty white to smoke-grey, reverse umber. On OA surface smoke-grey. On PDA surface smoke-grey, reverse olivaceous-grey.


Notes — The genus Phaeosphaeria has recently been characterised by Quaedvlieg et al. (2013) as having Phaeoseptoria asexual morphs. Several species of Phaeosphaeria were reported from Poaceae by Shoemaker & Babcock (1989). Although asexual morphs were not treated, references were made to ‘pigmented Stagonospora’, which is now confirmed as Phaeoseptoria. Most of the species treated by Shoemaker & Babcock (1989) have no known asexual morph, and those treated by Leuchtmann (1984) on Poaceae differ in conidial size to that of Phaeosphaeria poae.

ITS. Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the ITS sequence are Phaeosphaeria vagans (GenBank KF251193; Identities = 517/530 (98 %), Gaps = 1/530 (0 %)), Phaeosphaeria insignis (GenBank AF439485; Identities = 490/504 (97 %), Gaps = 1/504 (0 %)) and Phaeosphaeria culmorum (GenBank JX981464; Identities = 515/530 (97 %), Gaps = 1/530 (0 %)).

LSU. Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the LSU sequence are Phaeosphaeria ammophilae (GenBank KF766314; Identities = 828/830 (99 %), Gaps = 1/830 (0 %)), Wojnowicia hirta (GenBank EU754223; Identities = 827/830 (99 %), Gaps = 1/830 (0 %)) and Phaeosphaeria nigrans (GenBank GU456331; Identities = 826/829 (99 %), no gaps).

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