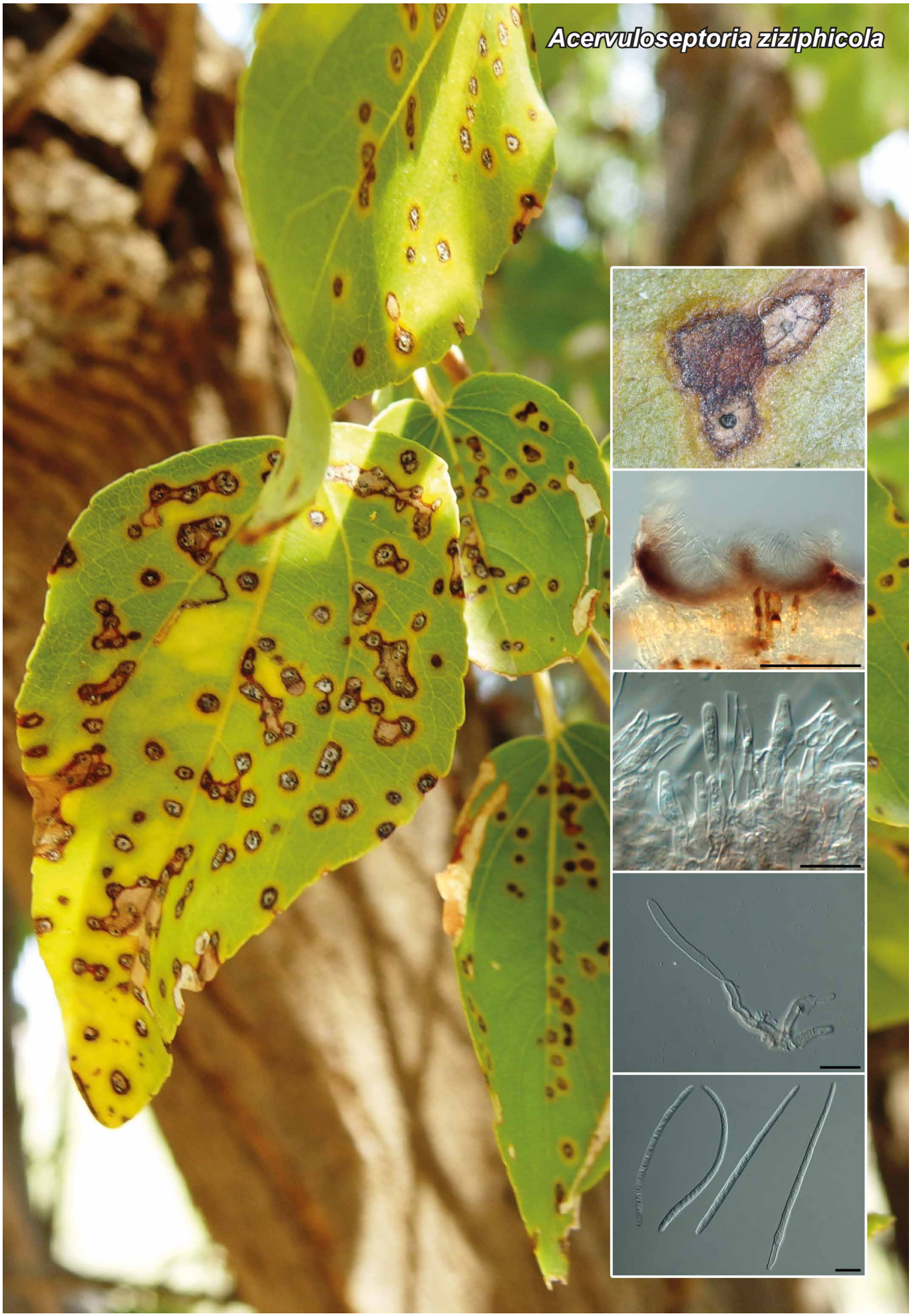
Acervuloseptoria ziziphicola

Fungal Planet 266 – 10 June 2014

Acervuloseptoria Crous & Jol. Roux, *gen. nov.*

Etymology. Named after its acervular-like conidiomata and its morphological similarity to the genus *Septoria*.

Plant pathogenic, foliicolous. *Conidiomata* black, amphigenous, exuding a creamy-white conidial cirrhus, subepidermal, erumpent, multilocular, with upper layer breaking open irregularly and leaving conidioma to have acervular appearance; wall of 3–6 layers of brown *textura angularis* to *textura intricata*, basal layers pale brown, roof of conidioma dark brown; in culture conidiomata acervular with elements of conidiomatal roof remaining like brown strands along the sides of conidioma. *Conidiophores* subcylindrical, straight to once geniculate, pale brown, verruculose, septate, branched or not. *Conidiogenous cells* terminal and lateral, subcylindrical, pale brown to subhyaline, verruculose to smooth, proliferating sympodially and percurrently. *Conidia* narrowly obclavate to subcylindrical, flexuous, guttulate, smooth, hyaline, apex subacutely rounded, base obconically truncate, septate.

Type species. Acervuloseptoria ziziphicola.
MycoBank MB808951.

Acervuloseptoria ziziphicola Crous & Jol. Roux, *sp. nov*.

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

Leaf spots amphigenous, subcircular, 2 mm diam, grey-brown in middle with raised red-brown border and diffuse chlarotic margin. *Conidiomata* black, amphigenous, exuding a creamy-white conidial cirrhus, subepidermal, erumpent, up to 500 µm diam, up to 100 µm high, multilocular, with upper layer breaking open irregularly and leaving conidioma to have acervular appearance; wall of 3–6 layers of brown *textura angularis* to *textura intricata*, basal layers pale brown, roof of conidioma dark brown; in culture conidiomata acervular with elements of conidiomatal roof remaining like brown strands along the sides of conidioma. *Conidiophores* subcylindrical, straight to once geniculate, pale brown, verruculose, 1–3-septate, branched or not, 15–40 × 3–4 µm. *Conidiogenous cells* terminal and lateral, subcylindrical, pale brown to subhyaline, verruculose to smooth, proliferating sympodially and percurrently, 8–12 × 3–4 µm. *Conidia* narrowly obclavate (frequently subcylindrical in culture), flexuous, guttulate, smooth, hyaline, apex subacutely rounded, base obconically truncate, (40–)55–75(–80) × 3(–4) µm, 3(–5)-septate.

Culture characteristics — Colonies reaching 5 mm diam after 2 wk at 22 °C. On MEA surface flat, spreading with even margins, lacking aerial mycelium; surface salmon, reverse umber. On OA surface umber. On PDA surface salmon with patches of umber, reverse similar.

Typus. South Africa, Northern Cape Province, Richtersveld, Potjiespram, associated with leaf spots of *Ziziphus mucronata* (*Rhamnaceae*), Sept. 2013, *J. Roux* (holotype CBS H-21723, culture ex-type CPC 23707 = CBS 138009; ITS sequence GenBank KJ869164, LSU sequence GenBank KJ869221, MycoBank MB808952).

Notes — Two species of *Septoria* have been described from *Zizyphus*, namely *S. zyzyphi* (conidia 15 × 1 µm, Michelia 1: 173. 1878) and *S. capensis* (conidia 30–50 × 2–2.5 µm, Hedwigia 24: 33. 1885). Both species differ from the present collection, however, in their conidium dimensions.

The genus *Septoria* and allied genera were recently treated by Quaedvlieg et al. (2013). *Acervuloseptoria* differs from these genera in that it has peculiar conidiomatal morphology, with black, erumpent conidiomata, from which the top layer disintegrates, leaving a conidiomatal body that appears acervular. The conidiophores are also somewhat different in that they are slightly pigmented and verruculose in their lower part. Phylogenetically, *Acervuloseptoria* also appears distinct from those genera presently known in this generic complex (Quaedvlieg et al. 2013, Verkley et al. 2013).

ITS. Based on a megablast search of NCBIs GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the ITS sequence are *Cercosporella virgaureae* (GenBank GU214658; Identities = 506/537 (94 %), Gaps = 11/537 (2 %)), *Mycosphaerella areola* (GenBank DQ459084; Identities = 501/532 (94 %), Gaps = 9/532 (1 %)) and *Septoria protearum* (GenBank KF251235; Identities = 484/525 (92 %), Gaps = 20/525 (3 %)).

LSU. Based on a megablast search of NCBIs GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the LSU sequence are *Cercosporella virgaureae* (GenBank GU214658; Identities = 844/855 (99 %), no gaps), *Caryophylloseptoria lychnidis* (GenBank KF251791; Identities = 800/812 (99 %), no gaps) and *Septoria dysentericae* (GenBank GU253866; Identities = 840/855 (98 %), no gaps).

Colour illustrations. *Ziziphus mucronata* in South Africa; leaf spot, conidiomata, conidiophores and conidia in culture. Scale bars = 10 µm.

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