



Fungal Planet 267 – 10 June 2014

***Pseudocercospora neriicola* Crous, Frisullo & Camele, sp. nov.**

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

Leaf spots amphigenous, subcircular, coalescing, medium brown, frequently with grey-brown central zone associated with sporulating fascicles, 5–25 mm diam, or associated with tip blight. *Conidiomata* sporodochial, amphigenous, olivaceous-grey on leaves, up to 200 µm diam, with a well-developed brown stroma up to 180 µm diam. *Conidiophores* brown, finely verruculose, subcylindrical, erect to gently curved, reduced to conidiogenous cells, or 1-septate, 10–30 × 4–7 µm. *Conidiogenous cells* terminal, brown, smooth to finely verruculose at base, 10–20 × 4–5 µm, proliferating sympodially at apex; scars truncate, not thickening nor darkened. *Conidia* solitary, medium brown, guttulate, smooth, subcylindrical to narrowly obclavate, apex obtuse, base obconically truncate, not thickened, nor darkened, straight to curved, undergoing microcyclic conidiation, (25–)50–60(–80) × 3(–3.5) µm, (3–)5–7(–10)-septate. *Spermatogonia* intermingled among conidiomata. *Spermatia* hyaline, smooth, rod-shaped, 4–5 × 1 µm.

Culture characteristics — Colonies reaching 10 mm diam after 2 wk at 22 °C. On MEA surface erumpent, folded, margins lobed, smooth, with moderate aerial mycelium, pale olivaceous-grey, reverse iron-grey. On OA surface pale olivaceous-grey. On PDA surface pale olivaceous-grey, reverse iron-grey.

Typus. ITALY, Lecce, on leaves of *Nerium oleander* (*Apocynaceae*), 16 Oct. 2013, *I. Camele* (holotype CBS H-21724, culture ex-type CPC 23765 = CBS 138010; ITS sequence GenBank KJ869165, LSU sequence GenBank KJ869222, ACT sequence GenBank KJ869231, TEF sequence GenBank KJ869240, MycoBank MB808953).

Notes — Of the *Pseudocercospora* species known to occur on *Nerium*, conidia of *P. neriicola* are larger and have more septa than that of *P. neriella* (conidia subcylindrical, 15–50 × 3–5(–6) µm, 0–4(–5)-septate) but smaller than conidia of *P. kurimensis* (conidia narrowly obclavate, 20–115 × 2–5 µm, 3–11-septate). *Pseudocercospora kurimensis* also has superficial mycelium and hypophyllous fascicles (Braun 1996).

ITS. Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the ITS sequence are *Pseudocercospora abelmoschi* (GenBank EF535719; Identities = 504/504 (100 %), no gaps), *Pseudocercospora eriobotryae* (GenBank JN662323; Identities = 507/508 (99 %), Gaps = 1/508 (0 %)) and *Pseudocercospora cruenta* (GenBank GU269689; Identities = 499/500 (99 %), Gaps = 1/500 (0 %)).

LSU. Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the ITS sequence are *Pseudocercospora timorensis* (GenBank KC677937; Identities = 841/841 (100 %), no gaps), *Pseudocercospora eupatoriiformosanae* (GenBank KC677930; Identities = 841/841 (100 %), no gaps) and *Pseudocercospora oenotherae* (GenBank JQ324961; Identities = 841/841 (100 %), no gaps).

ACT. Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the ACT sequence are *Pseudocercospora madagascariensis* (GenBank JX902140; Identities = 532/537 (99 %), no gaps), *Pseudocercospora cercidis-chinensis* (GenBank JX902131; Identities = 530/537 (99 %), no gaps) and *Pseudocercospora cruenta* (GenBank JQ325012; Identities = 589/597 (99 %), no gaps).

TEF. Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the TEF sequence are *Pseudocercospora prunicola* (GenBank GU384393; Identities = 297/305 (97 %), no gaps), *Pseudocercospora corylopsidis* (GenBank GU384437; Identities = 296/305 (97 %), no gaps) and *Pseudocercospora guianensis* (GenBank GU384436; Identities = 295/305 (97 %), no gaps).

Colour illustrations. Symptomatic *Nerium oleander* in Italy; leaf spot, fascicles, conidiophores and conidia in vivo. Scale bar = 10 µm.

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