Seimatosporium pistaciae
Seimatosporium pistaciae Crous & Mirab., sp. nov.

Etymology. Name reflects the host genus Pistacia, from which this species was isolated.

Foliicolous. Conidiomata pycnidial, separate to gregarious, becoming erumpent, oval to elongate, up to 150 µm diam. Conidiophores arising from a central stroma, hyaline, 3–4-septate, branched, subcylindrical, 20–45 x 3–4 µm. Conidiogenous cells terminal and intercalary, hyaline, smooth, subcylindrical, straight to somewhat curved, 10–15 x 2–2.5 µm, proliferating inconspicuously percurrently at apex. Conidia ellipsoidal to fusoid, 3-septate, smooth, not constricted at septa, two median cells medium brown, basal and apical cell hyaline, granular, (15–)17–20(–22) x (4–)4.5(–5) µm, apical cell obtusely rounded with apical appendage single, unbranched, filiform, flexuous, 10–14 µm; basal appendage single, unbranched, filiform, flexuous, excentric, 12–20 µm.

Culture characteristics — Colonies spreading, appressed with moderate aerial mycelium and smooth margin, reaching 7 cm diam after 2 wk at 25 °C in the dark. On MEA surface peach with patches of olivaceous-grey due to sporulation, and diffuse red pigment, reverse similar. On PDA surface dirty white with patches of luteous and olivaceous-grey, reverse salmon with patches of olivaceous-grey. On OA surface salmon with patches of grey-olivaceous.

Typus. IRAN. Saveh, on buds of Pistacia vera (Anacardiaceae), 29 Apr. 2014, M. Mirabolfathy (holotype CBS H-21997, culture ex-type CPC 24455 = CBS 138865; CPC 24455 ITS sequence GenBank KP004463, CPC 24455 LSU sequence GenBank KP004491, CPC 24457 ITS sequence GenBank KP004464, CPC 24457 LSU sequence GenBank KP004492, MycoBank MB810610).

Notes — The genus Seimatosporium (1833) is linked to sexual morphs in Discostroma (1909). Because the former genus is better established in literature, and represents the older name with many more species, it has preference over Discostroma.

As far as we are aware, no species of Seimatosporium have been described from Pistacia. Of the species treated by Nag Raj (1993), S. pistaciae morphologically most closely matches S. lonicerae (conidia 9–16 x 3.5–5 µm) and S. rosae (conidia 12.5–16.5 x 3.5–4 µm), but can be distinguished based on its larger conidial dimensions.

ITS. Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the ITS sequence are Discostroma fuscellum (GenBank JF320818; Identities = 559/566 (99%), Gaps = 2/566 (0%)), Seimatosporium parasiticum (GenBank AB594808; Identities = 542/551 (98%), no gaps) and Seimatosporium discosioides (GenBank AB594800; Identities = 544/555 (98%), Gaps = 4/555 (0%)).

LSU. Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the LSU sequence are Discostroma botan (GenBank DQ368629; Identities = 826/830 (99%), no gaps), Seimatosporium parasiticum (GenBank AB593741; Identities = 795/799 (99%), no gaps) and Discostroma fuscellum (GenBank AB593726; Identities = 795/799 (99%), no gaps).

Colour illustrations. Pistacia vera trees; conidiomata on PDA, conidiophores and conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.