

*Comoclathris spartii*





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***Comoclathris spartii*** K.M. Thambugala, E. Camporesi & K.D. Hyde, *sp. nov.*

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

*Saprobic* on *Spartium junceum*. *Ascomata* solitary, scattered or aggregated in small groups, immersed in host tissue, dark brown to black, globose to subglobose up to 200 µm diam without a distinct ostiole. *Ascomatal wall* of 2–4 layers of medium brown cells of *textura angularis* up to 12–20 µm. *Asci* 8-spored, 100–180 × 23–28 µm, cylindro-clavate, stipitate, bitunicate, fissitunicate, apex rounded, with a small apical chamber. *Pseudoparaphyses* hyaline, cellular, filamentous, septate, anastomosing, 2.5–4 µm diam, extending above the asci. *Ascospores* uni- to biserial in asci, muriform, yellow to pale brown, broadly fusiform, with obtuse ends, constricted at the primary septum, surrounded by a mucilaginous sheath, 25–34 × 9–14.5 µm.

*Culture characteristics* — Colonies on PDA surface flat, spreading, reaching 26 mm diam after 1 wk at 25 °C, white to smoke-grey, with moderate aerial mycelium and undulate, smooth to feathery margins, reverse umber.

*Typus.* ITALY, Castellaccio di Corniolino - Santa Sofia (province of Forlì-Cesena (FC)) on *Spartium junceum* (*Fabaceae*), 13 Oct. 2012, E. Camporesi (holotype MFLU 14-0579, culture ex-type MFLUCC 13-0214; ITS sequence GenBank KM577159, LSU sequence GenBank KM577160, SSU sequence GenBank KM577161, MycoBank MB810274).

*Notes* — The genus *Comoclathris* (based on *Comoclathris lanata*) is characterised by ascomata with circular lid-like openings and applanate reddish brown to dark reddish brown, muriform ascospores, with single longitudinal septa (Zhang et al. 2012, Ariyawansa et al. 2014). Some authors (Zhang et al. 2012, Woudenberg et al. 2013, Ariyawansa et al. 2014) suggested the correct phylogenetic placement of the genus in *Pleosporaceae* rather than *Diademaceae* based on both morphology and molecular phylogeny. *Comoclathris spartii* is phylogenetically closely allied to *C. compressa* (CBS 156.53 and CBS 157.53) and presently, it seems best to place this species in *Comoclathris*.

*ITS.* Based on a megablast search of NCBI GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the ITS sequence are Fungal endophyte sp. (GenBank EU977293; Identities = 511/517 (99 %), no gaps), Fungal sp. (GenBank JN578619; Identities = 523/536 (98 %), 4/536 (0 %)) and *Dendryphion penicillatum* (GenBank JN578618; Identities = 459/469 (98 %), no gaps).

*LSU.* Based on a megablast search of NCBI GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the LSU sequence are *Pleospora ambigua* (GenBank KC584630; Identities = 858/872 (98 %), no gaps), *Comoclathris compressa* (GenBank KC584372; Identities = 856/872 (98 %), no gaps) and *Pleospora incompta* (GenBank GU238087; Identities = 835/846 (99 %), no gaps).

*SSU.* Based on a megablast search of NCBI GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the SSU sequence are *Comoclathris compressa* (GenBank AY787937; Identities = 870/886 (98 %), no gaps), *Comoclathris compressa* (GenBank KC584631; Identities = 870/886 (98 %), no gaps) and *Pleospora typhicola* (GenBank JF740105; Identities = 864/888 (97 %), Gaps = 1/888 (0 %)).

*Colour illustrations.* Castellaccio di Corniolino - Santa Sofia, Italy; ascomata, ascus and ascospores. Scale bars = 50 µm.

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