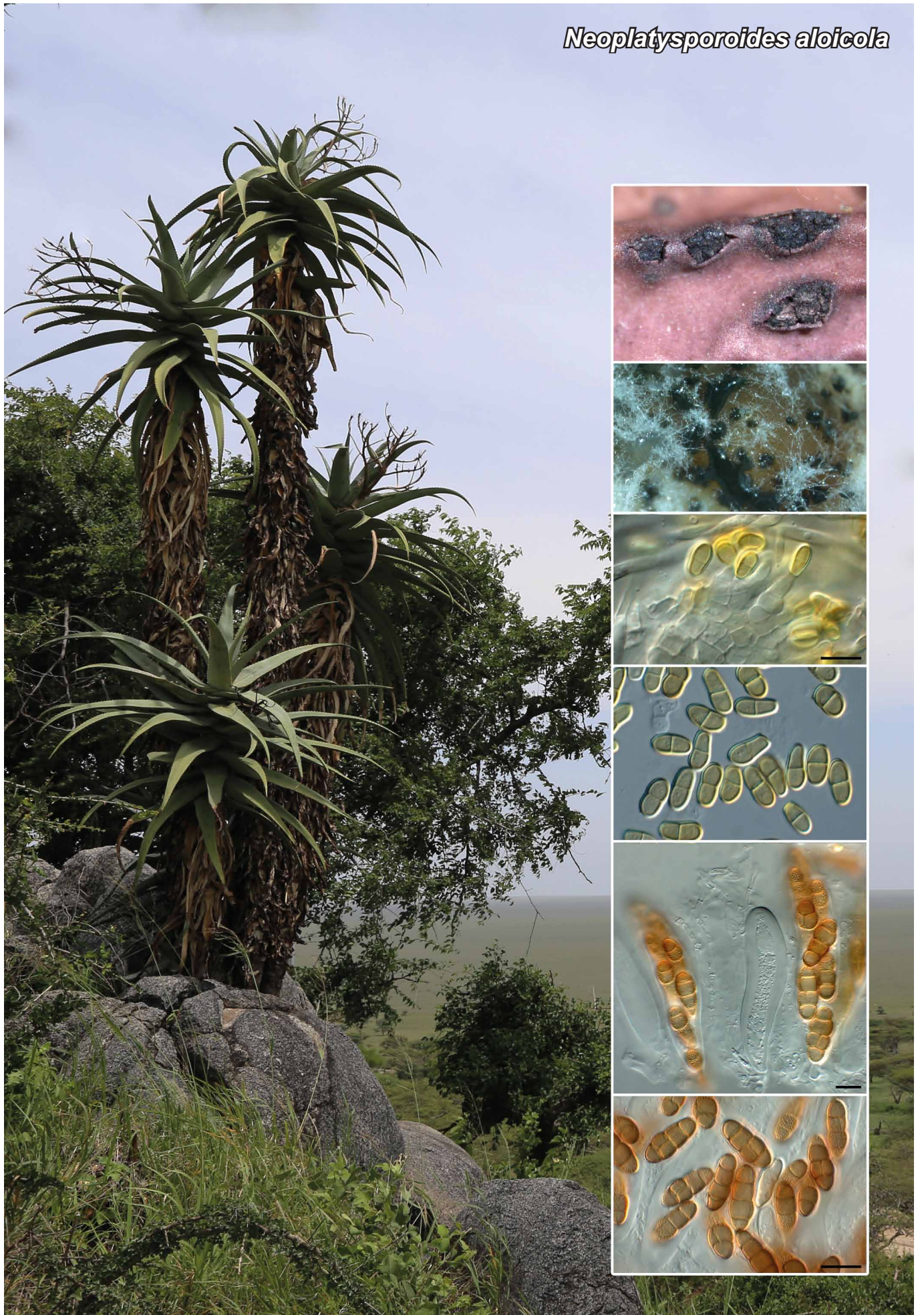


Neoplatysporoides aloicola



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Neoplatysporoides Crous & M.J. Wingf., *gen. nov.*

Etymology. Name reflects its morphological similarity to the genus *Platysporoides*.

Classification — *Pleosporaceae*, *Pleosporales*, *Dothideomycetes*.

Ascomata immersed in a brown stroma, becoming erumpent, breaking through the host surface, aggregated in clusters, with a central, non-papillate ostiole; wall of 6–10 layers of brown *textura angularis*. *Pseudoparaphyses* hyphal-like, intermingled among asci, hyaline, smooth, septate, anastomosing. *Asci* fasciculate, stipitate, hyaline, smooth, subcylindrical, bitunicate with ocular chamber, containing 8 ascospores. *Ascospores* fusoid-ellipsoid, brown, verruculose with obtuse ends, developing 3 transverse and 1–2 vertical septa, encased in a mucoid

sheath. *Conidiomata* unilocular, separate, globose, immersed, brown, opening via central ostiole, exuding a brown conidial mass; wall of 3–6 layers of brown *textura angularis*. *Conidiophores* reduced to conidiogenous cells. *Conidiogenous cells* lining the inner cavity, hyaline, smooth, ampulliform to doliiform, with prominent periclinal thickening at apex, or with tightly aggregated percurrent proliferations at apex. *Conidia* solitary, golden brown, subcylindrical to ellipsoid, straight to curved, 0–1-septate, constricted at median septum, apex obtuse, base truncate, with marginal frill, and longitudinal striations.

Type species. *Neoplatysporoides aloicola*.
MycoBank MB812439.

Neoplatysporoides aloicola Crous & M.J. Wingf., *sp. nov.*

Etymology. Name reflects the genus *Aloe*, from which the species was isolated.

Ascomata up to 600 µm diam (with white cavities, as in e.g. *Botryosphaeria*), immersed in a brown stroma, becoming erumpent, breaking through the host surface, aggregated in clusters, with a central, non-papillate ostiole; wall of 6–10 layers of brown *textura angularis*. *Pseudoparaphyses* hyphal-like, intermingled among asci, hyaline, smooth, septate, anastomosing, 2–3 µm diam, extending above asci. *Asci* fasciculate, stipitate, hyaline, smooth, subcylindrical, bitunicate with ocular chamber, 2–3 µm diam, 80–120 × 13–18 µm, containing 8 bi- to tri-seriate ascospores. *Ascospores* fusoid-ellipsoid, brown, verruculose with obtuse ends, initially medianly 1-septate (constricted at septum), developing 3 transverse and 1–2 vertical septa, encased in a mucoid sheath up to 5 µm thick; mature ascospores widest in the middle of the second cell from the apex, and prominently constricted at septa, (17–)20–23(–25) × (6–)8–9(–10) µm. *Conidiomata* unilocular, separate, globose, immersed, brown, up to 200 µm diam, opening via central ostiole, exuding a brown conidial mass; wall of 3–6 layers of brown *textura angularis*. *Conidiophores* reduced to conidiogenous cells. *Conidiogenous cells* lining the inner cavity, hyaline, smooth, ampulliform to doliiform, 5–10 × 4–6 µm, with prominent periclinal thickening at apex, or with tightly aggregated percurrent proliferations at apex. *Conidia* solitary, golden brown, subcylindrical to ellipsoid,

straight to curved, 0–1-septate, constricted at median septum, apex obtuse, base truncate, 3–4 µm diam, with marginal frill, and longitudinal striations along the entire length of the conidium, (8–)9–10(–12) × (4–)5(–6) µm.

Culture characteristics — Colonies erumpent, spreading, with moderate aerial mycelium, and feathery margins, covering dish in 1 mo at 25 °C. On PDA surface and reverse buff. On MEA surface dirty white, reverse cinnamon. On OA surface dirty white with patches of hazel.

Typus. TANZANIA, on leaves of *Aloe* sp. (*Xanthorrhoeaceae*), Feb. 2014, M.J. Wingfield (holotype CBS H-22230, culture ex-type CPC 24435 = CBS 139901; ITS sequence GenBank KR476719, LSU sequence GenBank KR476754, MycoBank MB812440); CPC 24436.

Notes — *Neoplatysporoides* shares some features with *Platysporoides* (muriformly septate ascospores enclosed in mucoid sheaths; Shoemaker & Babcock 1992), but is distinct in having a characteristic pseudostroma into which thick-walled pseudothecia are immersed, and the prominent coelomycetous asexual morph, which occurs with the ascomata on the same host substrate. Furthermore, *Neoplatysporoides* was also associated with tip dieback of *Aloe ferox*, suggesting it may not be a saprobe as in the case of *Platysporoides*, which occurs on leaf litter. Another genus that is similar to *Neoplatysporoides* is *Austropleospora* (Morin et al. 2010), although it lacks a pseudostroma, has papillate ascomata, and smooth ascospores.

Colour illustrations. *Aloe ferox* in Tanzania; conidiomata on leaf and in culture; conidiogenous cells and conidia; asci and ascospores. Scale bars = 10 µm.

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