Neopestalotiopsis egyptiaca
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Neopestalotiopsis egyptiaca A.M. Ismail, G. Perrone & Crous, sp. nov.

Etymology. Name reflects the country Egypt where the fungus was collected.

Classification — Sporocadaceae, Xylariales, Sordariomycetes.

Conidiomata pycnidial, globose, formed on PDA within 7 d, mostly solitary, scattered, semi-immersed or erumpent, to 300 μm diam; releasing slimy, black conidial masses. Conidiophores septate, branched at base, sometimes reduced to conidiogenous cells, hyaline, smooth-walled, septate, up to 42 μm long. Conidiogenous cells discrete, cylindrical, hyaline, smooth, proliferating 2–3 times percurrently at apex, 15–25 × 3–5 μm. Conidia smooth, fusiform, straight and sometimes slightly curved, 4-septate consisting of three thick-walled pale to dark brown median cells, of which the upper two are darker brown than the lower cell (these cells also tend to be finely roughened), and two thin-walled pale to dark olivaceous apical and basal cells, (22.5–)23–26(–28) × 6–7.5 μm. Apical cell giving rise to 2–3 unbranched, tubular, hyaline appendages, (15–)16.5–21(–25) μm long; basal cell with a single, hyaline, centric, unbranched appendage, 4.5–7.5 μm long.

Culture characteristics — On PDA colonies reached up to 90 mm diam after 10 d at 25 °C with smooth edge, whitish, slightly raised, circular appearance, with sparse to moderate aerial mycelium on the surface with black, scattered conidiomata. On reverse, olivaceous, with distinct zonation.


Notes — Based on a recent multi-locus phylogenetic study of Pestalotiopsis, Maharachchikumbura et al. (2014) divided the complex into three genera: Pestalotiopsis, Neopestalotiopsis and Pseudopestalotiopsis. Morphologically, Neopestalotiopsis can be easily distinguished from Pseudopestalotiopsis and Pestalotiopsis by its versicolorous median cells. Conidiophores in Neopestalotiopsis are indistinct and often reduced to conidiogenous cells. Based on the phylogenetic analysis of the sequence data of tub2, tef1 and ITS, N. egyptiaca is phylogenetically closely related to N. australis. However, the conidia of N. australis are wider and the median cells are darker than those of N. egyptiaca.

Colour illustrations. Mangifera indica in Egypt; symptomatic leaf, colony on PDA, conidiophores giving rise to conidia and appendaged conidia. Scale bar = 10 μm.

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