Meristemomyces arctostaphylos
**Meristemomyces arctostaphylos** Crous & M.J. Wingf., *sp. nov.*

Etymology: Name refers to *Arctostaphylos*, the plant genus from which this fungus was collected.

Classification — *Teratosphaeriaceae, Capnodiales, Dothideomycetes.*

Mycelium consisting of brown, thick-walled, verruculose, branch-ed, septate, 2.5–4 ㎛ hyphae, frequently encased in a mucoid sheath. Conidiophores solitary, brown, verruculose, terminal or lateral on hyphae, multisepated, flexuous, subcylindrical, up to 150 ㎛ long, 3–5 ㎛ diam, or reduced to conidiogenous loci on hyphae. Conidiogenous cells brown, verruculose, thick-walled, subcylindrical to irregular, 3–10 × 3–6 ㎛, with 1–3 terminal flat-tipped loci, 1.5–2 ㎛ diam. Conidia in branched chains, brown, thick-walled, verruculose. Secondary ramoconidia fusoid-ellipsoid to subcylindrical, 1–3-septate, 15–20 × 5–9 ㎛, with 1–3 flat-tipped unthickened, not darkened loci, 1.5–2 ㎛ diam. Conidia brown, verruculose, thick-walled, 3–10 × 3–6 ㎛; loci not thickened nor darkened, 1.5–2 ㎛ diam, frequently with minute marginal frill.

Culture characteristics — Colonies reaching up to 15 mm diam after 2 wk at 25 °C, with spreading, erumpent, folded surface; margins smooth, lobate, and sparse aerial mycelium. On MEA surface iron-grey, reverse olivaceous grey. On OA, PDA and MEA surface dark-mouse-grey to greenish black, reverse greenish black.

Typus. USA, Utah, near Long Valley, on leaves of *Arctostaphylos patula* (Ericaceae), Oct. 2014, M.J. Wingfield (holotype CBS H-22600, culture ex-type CPC 25574 = CBS 141290; ITS sequence GenBank KX228264.1, LSU sequence GenBank KX228315.1, MycoBank MB817026).

Notes — The genus *Meristemomyces* is monotypic, based on *M. frigidus*, isolated from rocks in the Himalayas (Egidi et al. 2014). Based on ITS sequence data, *M. arctostaphylos* is 91% (404/443) similar to the type culture of *M. frigidus* (CBS 136109 = COFEE 5508; GenBank KF309961.1) and 99% (458/460) to *Xenomeris raetica* (CBS 485.61; GenBank EF114690.1). Morphologically, *M. arctostaphylos* is quite distinct from *M. frigidus*, as the latter species produces arthroconidia by disarticulation, while *M. arctostaphylos* has well-defined conidiophores giving rise to a series of secondary ramoconidia, and septate conidia. *Xenomeris raetica* was described on leaf litter of *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* in Switzerland. The fungus is known only by its sexual morph. The present collection was obtained on the same host genus, but from the USA. Although only the asexual morph was found, based on DNA data, it appears to be 99% similar to a strain identified as *Xenomeris raetica* (CBS 485.61), suggesting that this could be the same fungus. However, CBS 485.61 is not an ex-type strain, and *M. arctostaphylos* is a common hyphomycete on leaves of *Arctostaphylos*. Furthermore, the genus *Xenomeris* is regarded as a member of *Venturiaceae*, not *Teratosphaeriaceae*, thus the possible synonymy of *Meristemomyces* under the older *Xenomeris* can only be resolved once fresh collections of *Xenomeris raetica* have been obtained.

**Colour illustrations.** *Arctostaphylos patula* plants in the USA; colonies sporulating on PDA, conidiophores and chains of conidia. Scale bars = 10 μm.