Neocordana musigena Crous, sp. nov.

Etymology. Name refers to Musa, the host genus from which this fungus was collected.

Classification — Pyriculariaceae, Magnaporthales, Sordariomycetes.

Leaf spots pale grey to brown, covering large areas of the leaf lamina. Mycelium consisting of pale brown to subhyaline, smooth, branched, septate, 2–3 µm diam hyphae. Conidiophores subcylindrical, flexuous, erect, medium brown, smooth, multi-septate, 50–100 × 4–6 µm. Conidiogenous cells polyblastic, terminal and intercalary, 15–50 × 4–6 µm, denticulate; denticles up to 1.5 µm long, 0.5–1 µm wide. Conidia oblong to obovoid, (15–)16–17–18 × (7–)8–9 µm, 1-septate, thick-walled, brown, with truncate base, 1 µm diam.

Culture characteristics — Colonies flat, spreading, with moderate aerial mycelium, and feathery margins, reaching 30–40 mm diam after 2 wk. On MEA surface dirty white, reverse plate luteous. On PDA surface umber, reverse umber. On OA surface honey.


Notes — Hernández-Restrepo et al. (2015) introduced the genus Neocordana to accommodate four species of hyphomycetes causing a foliar disease of Canna and Musa. Crous et al. (2016) added a fifth species, N. musarum, causing a foliar disease on bananas in La Réunion. Neocordana musigena (conidia 15–18 × 7–9 µm) is most similar to C. musicola (conidia 14.5–20 × 6.5–9.5 µm), but is phylogenetically distinct from it. Based on a megablast search using the ITS sequence of the ex-type culture, the best matches were to Neocordana musae (GenBank LN713281; Identities = 571/571 (100 %), no gaps), Neocordana musarum (GenBank KY173424; Identities = 565/571 (99 %), 1 gap (0 %)), and Neocordana musicola (GenBank LN713283; Identities = 544/550 (99 %), 1 gap (0 %)). Based on a megablast search using the rpb1 sequence of the ex-type culture, the strain is identical to Neocordana musarum (GenBank KY173577; Identities = 749/749 (100 %), no gaps), while the actA sequence is 99 % identical to Neocordana musarum (GenBank KY173568; Identities = 357/358 (99 %), no gaps).

Colour illustrations. Musa plants; symptomatic leaf; conidiophores and conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.