

Diaporthe rhusicola



Fungal Planet 81 – 31 May 2011

Diaporthe rhusicola Crous, sp. nov.

Diaporthis neotheicolae similis, sed conidiis majoribus, (7–)8–9(–10) × 3(–3.5) µm, discernitur.

Etymology. Named after the host from which it was collected, *Rhus pendulina*.

Leaf spots brown, amphigenous, subcircular, up to 1 cm diam, similar to those associated with *Muribasidiospora indica* on this host (Crous et al. 2003), except that in the latter they tend to be red to red-purple in colour. *Pycnidia* formed readily on potato-dextrose agar (PDA), oatmeal agar (OA) and malt extract agar (MEA); erumpent, flattened, black, multilocular, up to 600 µm diam. *Conidiophores* on PDA lining the inner cavity, hyaline, smooth, 1–3-septate, subcylindrical, unbranched or branched (below or above), 20–40 × 2–3 µm. *Conidiogenous cells* terminal, hyaline, smooth, subcylindrical, 15–25 × 2–3 µm, tapering somewhat towards a truncate apex, 1–1.5 µm, with a flaring collarete, up to 5 µm wide and long. *Paraphyses* intermingled among conidiophores, hyaline, smooth, subcylindrical, branched or not, up to 80 µm long, 2–3 µm wide. *Conidia* (7–)8–9(–10) × 3(–3.5) µm, solitary, hyaline, smooth, guttulate, subcylindrical to fusoid-ellipsoidal, apex obtuse, widest in middle, tapering to a truncate base, 1 µm diam.

Culture characteristics — (in the dark, 25 °C, after 2 wk): Colonies spreading, with moderate to fluffy aerial mycelium and feathery margins, covering the dish in 2 wk; on MEA surface dirty white, reverse dirty white with patches of iron-grey; on OA iron-grey in centre, with patches of olivaceous grey and pale olivaceous grey; on PDA olivaceous grey in centre, with dirty white outer region, forming a diffuse yellow pigment in agar.

Typus. SOUTH AFRICA, Western Cape Province, Cape Town, Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden, on leaves of *Rhus pendulina* (White Karee), 8 May 2010, P.W. Crous, holotype CBS H-20589, cultures ex-type CPC 18191 = CBS 129528, ITS sequence GenBank JF951146 and LSU sequence GenBank JF951166, MycoBank MB560170.

Notes — Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the ITS sequence are *Phomopsis* sp. BLE12 (FN868477; Identities = 574/574 (100 %), Gaps = 0/574 (0 %)), *Phomopsis* sp. FE 86 (FJ440699; Identities = 537/537 (100 %), Gaps = 0/537 (0 %)), *Phomopsis* sp. 1 (AY485723; Identities = 514/517 (99 %), Gaps = 1/517 (0 %)) and *Diaporthe neotheicola* (anamorph: *Phomopsis theicola*) (DQ286286; Identities = 519/523 (99 %), Gaps = 2/523 (0 %)) (Santos & Phillips 2009). As far as we could establish, this is the first association of *Diaporthe* with a leaf spot disease on *Rhus pendulina*.

Colour illustrations. Leaf symptoms on *Rhus pendulina* in Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden; conidiophores giving rise to conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.