Sclerostagonospora cycadis Crous & G. Okada, sp. nov.

Sclerostagonospora leucadendri similis, sed conidiis minoribus, (6–)7–10(–13) × 3–4(–4.5) μm.

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

On oatmeal agar. **Conidiomata** pycnidial, globose, solitary, brown, 60–300 μm diam, opening mostly by means of a single, central ostiole, up to 30 μm diam, lined with hyaline, 0–1-septate periphyses, 2–2.5 μm wide; wall consisting of 2–3 layers of brown textura angularis. **Conidiophores** reduced to annelides. **Conidiogenous cells** ampulliform to subcylindrical, 3–6 × 3–5 μm, hyaline, smooth, becoming brown, with 1–3 apical, percurrent proliferations. **Paraphyses** interspersed among conidiogenous cells, 0–3-septate, simple or branched, hyaline, 10–30 × 2–2.5 μm. **Conidia** ellipsoid to subcylindrical (apex obtuse, base truncate), smooth, medium brown, (0–)1–3-septate, becoming constricted at septa with age, (6–)7–10(–13) × 3–4(–4.5) μm.

**Culture characteristics** — (in the dark, 25 °C, after 1 mo): **Colonies** on potato-dextrose agar and oatmeal agar spreading, reaching 40–50 mm diam, with sparse aerial mycelium, smooth, with catenulate margins; surface buff to honey with patches of mouse-grey; reverse honey with patches of mouse-grey.


**Notes** — The present fungus is placed in Sclerostagonospora due to the presence of pycnidia, conidiogenous cells with percurrent proliferations, and pigmented conidia. The anamorph genus Sclerostagonospora has been linked to Leptosphaeria (Crous & Palm 1999, Crous et al. 2004) and Montagnula (Huhndorf 1992), and is paraphyletic. Presently nine species of Sclerostagonospora are listed in Index Fungorum, none of which occur on Zamiaceae, or resemble S. cycadis in morphology. BLASTn results of the ITS sequence revealed an identity of 99 % with Sclerostagonospora sp. (GenBank accession DQ286767; Identities = 532/538 (99 %), Gaps = 3/538 (1 %)) and Sclerostagonospora opuntiae (GenBank accession DQ286768; Identities = 531/538 (99 %), Gaps = 3/538 (1 %)). The LSU sequence has 99 % identity to the latter two GenBank sequences as well as sequences of Phaeosphaeria species. Sclerostagonospora cycadis is morphologically similar to Hendersonia togniniana, which was described from Cycas revoluta plants cultivated in a botanical garden in Italy. Conidia of the latter, however, are brown, oblong-ellipsoidal, 3-septate, 10–12 × 6–7 μm, thus being wider than that of the present species (Saccardo 1899).

**Colour illustrations.** Cycas revoluta growing at Sakae-cho, Asaka, Saitama; colony on oatmeal agar; conidiogenous cells and conidia. Scale bar = 10 μm.