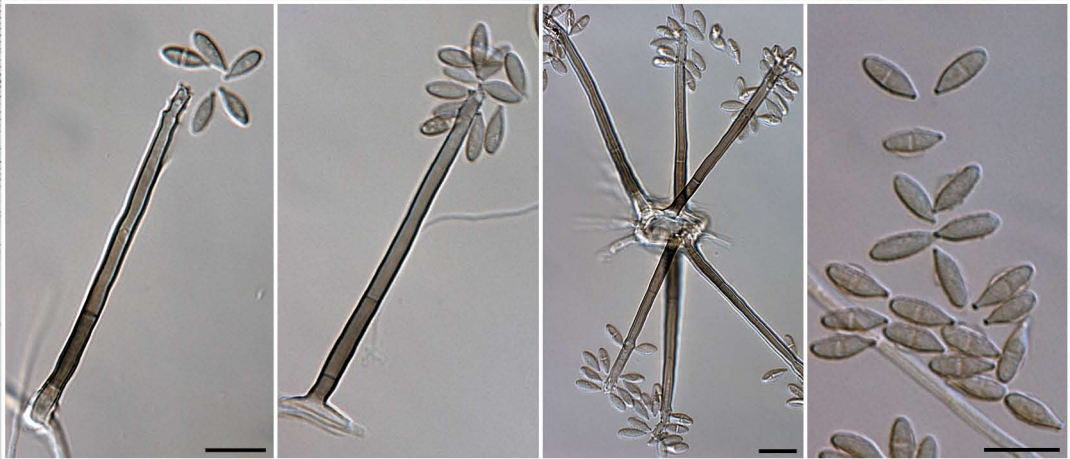


*Myrmecridium phragmitis*



Fungal Planet 96 – 6 December 2011

***Myrmecridium phragmitis* Crous, sp. nov.**

*Myrmecridii schulzeri* simile, sed conidiis minoribus, (6.5–)7–8(–9) × (2.5–)3(–3.5) µm, discernitur.

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

On synthetic nutrient poor agar: *Hyphae submerged* and creeping, hyaline, thin-walled, 1–2 µm diam. *Conidiophores* arising vertically from creeping aerial hyphae, unbranched, straight, medium brown to reddish brown, thick-walled, 1–4-septate, up to 100 µm tall, 3.5–4.5 µm diam; basal cell somewhat inflated, 3–4 µm diam. *Conidiogenous cells* integrated, cylindrical, 25–50 µm long, pale brown, forming a rachis with scattered pimple-shaped denticles less than 1 µm long and approx. 0.5 µm wide, apically pointed, pigmented, slightly thickened. *Conidia* solitary, 0–1-septate, subhyaline, thin-walled, smooth, guttulate, surrounded by a wing-like gelatinous sheath, approx. 0.5 µm thick, ellipsoid to obovoid or fusoid, (6.5–)7–8(–9) × (2.5–)3(–3.5) µm, tapering to a subtruncate hilum; hilum unpigmented, not darkened.

Culture characteristics — (in the dark, 25 °C, after 2 wk): Colonies reaching up to 20 mm diam after 2 wk. On malt extract agar surface erumpent, slimy with sparse aerial mycelium, ropy hyphal strands and feathery, lobate margin; surface and reverse orange. On potato-dextrose agar erumpent, margin feathery, lobate, lacking aerial mycelium; surface and reverse luteous to orange. On oatmeal agar spreading, slimy, lacking aerial mycelium, with smooth margins; centre pale orange, margin saffron.

*Typus.* NETHERLANDS, Bilthoven, Evert Cornelislaan No 11, on stems of *Phragmites australis* (*Poaceae*), 1 June 2011, P.W. Crous, holotype CBS H-20761, culture ex-type CPC 19028 = CBS 131311, ITS sequence GenBank JQ044425 and LSU sequence GenBank JQ044444, MycoBank MB560700.

Notes — The *Ramichloridium* complex was recently revised by Arzanlou et al. (2007), leading to the recognition and subsequent description of several genera, including *Myrmecridium*. The latter genus is characterised by having hyaline mycelium, and relatively unpigmented, pimple-like denticles. Two species are presently known, namely *M. schulzeri* (var. *schulzeri* and var. *tritici*) and *M. flexuosum*. *Myrmecridium phragmitis* is easily distinguished from these species by having 1-septate conidia. A megablast search of the NCBI's GenBank nucleotide sequence database using the ITS sequence of *M. phragmitis* retrieves as closest hits *Myrmecridium schulzeri* (GenBank EU041770; Identities = 526/545 (97 %), Gaps = 6/545 (1 %)) and *Myrmecridium flexuosum* (GenBank EU041768; Identities = 499/524 (95 %), Gaps = 9/524 (2 %)), amongst others. A megablast search of the NCBI's GenBank nucleotide sequence database using the LSU sequence supports this placement.

*Colour illustrations.* Harvested *Phragmites* being transported on a barge in the Netherlands (photographed by U. Damm during the CBS outing to Giethoorn); conidiophores giving rise to conidia; conidia (note wing-like gelatinous sheath). Scale bars = 10 µm.