

Strelitziana* M. Arzanlou & Crous, gen. nov.**Mycobank***: MB501009.***Etymology***: Named after the host genus it was collected from, *Strelitzia*.

Latin diagnosis: Genus hyphomycetum. Conidiophora erecta, solitaria, ex hyphis aeriis vel submersis oriunda, subcylindrica, recta vel geniculato-sinuosa, dilute brunnea. Cellulae conidiogenae terminales, integratae, percurrenter proliferantes, in apice etiam nonnullis denticulis brevibus sed conspicuis proliferantes; conidia rhexolytice liberata. Conidia dilute brunnea, levia, longa obclavata, nonnullis euseptis divisa; conidiogenesis microcyclica visa in vitro.

Description: *Conidiophores* erect, solitary, arising from aerial and submerged mycelium, subcylindrical, straight to geniculous-sinuuous, pale brown. *Conidiogenous cells* terminal, integrated, rejuvenating percurrently, proliferating apically via several short, conspicuous denticles; conidiogenesis rhexolytic. *Conidia* pale brown, smooth, long obclavate, multi-euseptate; microcyclic conidiation present in culture.

Strelitziana africana* M. Arzanlou & Crous, sp. nov.**Mycobank***: MB501010.***Etymology***: Named after the continent from which it was collected, Africa.

Latin diagnosis: Conidiophora erecta, solitaria, ex hyphis aeriis vel submersis oriunda, subcylindrica, recta vel geniculato-sinuosa, dilute brunnea, 0–1(–5)-septata, 4–15(–40) × 2.5–4 µm. Cellulae conidiogenae 4–15 × 2.5–4 µm, denticulis nonnullis brevibus conspicuis apicalibus, 1–1.5 µm longis, 1 µm latis proliferantes; conidia rhexolytice liberata. Conidia dilute brunnea, levia, longa obclavata, ad basim vestigio circulari praedita, (18–)50–70(–95) × 3(–3.5) µm, 3–5(–10)-septata.

Description: *Mycelium* superficial, consisting of smooth, septate, branched hyphae, 2–3 µm diam. *Conidiophores* erect, solitary, arising from aerial and submerged mycelium, subcylindrical, straight to geniculous-sinuuous, pale brown, concolorous with hyphae, smooth, 0–1(–5)-septate, 4–15(–40) × 2.5–4 µm. *Conidiogenous cells* terminal, integrated, pale brown, concolorous with conidiophore, frequently rejuvenating percurrently, proliferating apically via several short, conspicuous denticles, 1–1.5 µm long, 1 µm wide; conidiogenesis rhexolytic with remnants of separating cell clearly visible on conidiogenesis cell, rarely visible on conidial hilum as a minute marginal frill, 4–15 × 2.5–4 µm. *Conidia* pale brown, smooth, long obclavate, widest in middle of basal cell, tapering to a subobtusely rounded apex and obconically subtruncate base with minute marginal frill, 1 µm wide, (18–)50–70(–95) × 3(–3.5) µm, 3–5(–10)-septate; microcyclic conidiation present in culture.

Cultural characteristics: Colonies on 2 % malt extract agar¹ (Oxoid) erumpent with moderate aerial mycelium and regular, smooth margins, reaching 15 mm diam after 2 weeks at 25 °C; surface olivaceous-grey, reverse iron-grey; on oatmeal agar¹ flat, spreading, with sparse aerial mycelium, reaching 20 mm diam after 2 weeks at 25 °C; surface grey-olivaceous; colonies fertile.

Typus: **South Africa**, KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, Botanical Garden near Reunion, on leaves of *Strelitzia* sp., 5 Feb. 2005, collected by W. Gams & H. Glen, CBS-H 19776, **holotypus**; culture ex-type X1039 = CBS 120037.

Notes: *Strelitziana africana* resembles species of *Pseudocercospora* Speg. which have pigmented, scolecosporous conidia formed at the apices of conidiophores on superficial mycelium in culture. However, its mode of conidiation is rhexolytic, and thus it cannot be accommodated in the *Mycosphaerellaceae*. *Strelitziana* is somewhat reminiscent of the genus *Pseudosigmoidea* K. Ando & N. Nakam., which has polyphalides and scolecospores. It is distinct, however, by having pigmented structures, rhexolytic conidiogenesis, and a foliicolous growth habit. In contrast, *Pseudosigmoidea* has hyaline structures, schizolytic conidiogenesis, and is aquatic. *Strelitziana* also resembles the genus *Catenosubulispora* Matsush. in conidiogenesis, but is distinct by lacking the thickened, dark conidial scars typical of the latter. BLASTn results of the ITS sequence of *S. africana* did not retrieve any close hits; poor hits were found mainly with uncultured soil fungi and unidentified fungi from rock surfaces. The partial 28S rRNA gene sequence (GenBank DQ885895) places this species with members of the *Chaetothyriales*. Based on its distinct morphology, a new genus is therefore introduced here to accommodate it.

Colour illustrations: *Strelitzia* plants growing in the Western Cape of South Africa (P.W. Crous); conidiogenous cells giving rise to conidia (P.W. Crous). Scale bar = 10 µm.

Reference: ¹Gams W, Hoekstra ES, Aptroot A (eds) (1998). *CBS course of mycology* 4th ed. Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures, Baarn, Delft, Netherlands.

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