

Scorias leucadendri



Fungal Planet 105 – 6 December 2011

***Scorias leucadendri* Crous, sp. nov.**

Scorias spongiosae simile, sed conidiis majoribus, 3–4(–5) × 1.5(–2) µm, discernitur.

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

Leaf spots absent, sporulating on dead tissue under moist conditions. On synthetic nutrient poor agar. *Mycelium* consisting of olivaceous green hyphae, 2–6 µm diam, septate, branched, constricted at septa, forming hyphal ropes, thick-walled, warty, frequently encased in mucoid sheath. *Conidiomata* pycnidial, stalked, flask-shaped, separate or in clusters of 2–4, erect, straight to slightly flexuous, base brown, 20–30 µm diam, widest in middle of subcylindrical part, dark olivaceous brown, swollen, 180–600 × 16–50 µm; body consisting of dark brown, spirally twisted hyphae along the length of conidiomata, 3–5 µm diam; apex 12–17 µm diam, loose apical hyphae flaring, subhyaline, septate, 35–100 × 2.5–3.5 µm. *Conidiogenous cells* lining the inner cavity, phialidic, 3–6 × 3–4 µm, tapering to a truncate apex, with periclinal thickening. *Conidia* broadly ellipsoid with rounded ends, aseptate, eguttulate, hyaline, smooth, 3–4(–5) × 1.5(–2) µm, aggregating in hyaline, slimy masses at apex of synnemata.

Culture characteristics — (in the dark, 25 °C, after 2 wk): Colonies spreading, flat, with sparse to moderate aerial mycelium, and even, lobate margins; reaching 20 mm diam after 2 wk. On potato-dextrose agar grey olivaceous on surface and underneath. On malt extract agar surface olivaceous black and slimy in centre, grey olivaceous in outer region, iron-grey underneath. On oatmeal agar olivaceous grey in centre, iron-grey in outer region.

Typus. SOUTH AFRICA, Western Cape Province, Hermanus, Fernkloof Nature Reserve, on leaves of *Leucadendron muirii* (*Proteaceae*), 4 May 2010, P.W. Crous, holotype CBS H-20775, cultures ex-type CPC 18312 = CBS 131318, ITS sequence GenBank JQ044437 and LSU sequence GenBank JQ044456, MycoBank MB560709.

Notes — *Scorias leucadendri* is a typical species of *Scorias* with its elongated, flask-shaped pycnidia, narrow neck and ostiolar hyphae, though it is reminiscent of *Leptoxyphium* (Cheewangkoon et al. 2009, Crous et al. 2011a). It is distinct from other species of *Scorias* based on it having a body consisting of dark brown, spirally twisted hyphae running along the length of its conidiophores, its conidial dimensions, and lacking a sponge-like subiculum. A megablast search of the NCBI's GenBank nucleotide sequence database using the ITS sequence of *L. leucadendri* retrieves as closest hits *Scorias spongiosa* (GenBank GU214696; Identities = 629/646 (97 %), Gaps = 4/646 (1 %)), *Antennariella placitae* (GenBank GQ303268; Identities = 455/495 (92 %), Gaps = 22/495 (4 %)) and *Leptoxyphium kuran-dae* (GenBank JF951150; Identities = 583/661 (88 %), Gaps = 44/661 (7 %)), amongst others. A megablast search of the NCBI's GenBank nucleotide sequence database using the LSU sequence of *L. leucadendri* retrieves as closest hits *Scorias spongiosa* (GenBank GU214696; Identities = 935/942 (99 %), Gaps = 4/942 (0 %)), *Fumagospora capnodioides* (GenBank EU019269; Identities = 844/872 (97 %), Gaps = 10/872 (1 %)) and *Graphiopsis chlorocephala* (GenBank EU009458; Identities = 912/945 (97 %), Gaps = 14/945 (1 %)), amongst others.

Colour illustrations. *Leucadendron muirii* growing in Fernkloof Nature Reserve, Hermanus, South Africa; colonies sporulating on malt extract agar; conidiomata with spirally twisted hyphae along the length of conidiophores, and loose apical hyphae; conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.