

Beltraniella podocarpi



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Beltraniella podocarp Crous, *sp. nov.*

Etymology. Name refers to the host genus *Podocarpus* from which it was isolated.

Classification — *Beltraniaceae*, *Xylariales*, *Sordariomycetes*.

Setae solitary to aggregated, erect, flexuous, arising from a lobate basal cell, 15–25 µm diam, dark brown, warty, chiefly unbranched, up to 20-septate, thick-walled with large central guttules, tapering in upper part to acute apex, 120–300 × 5–8 µm. *Conidiophores* arranged in dense clusters around the base of setae, brown, smooth, subcylindrical, frequently branched at basal cell, 1–2-septate, 10–30 × 6–8 µm. *Conidiogenous cells* integrated, terminal and intercalary, 7–12 × 6–7 µm, pale brown, smooth, obclavate, tapering toward 1–3 denticulate loci, 1–1.5 µm long, 1 µm diam. *Separating cells* clavate to fusoid-ellipsoid, pale brown, smooth, finely guttulate, tapering toward long basal stalk and short apical locus, 17–21 × 4–5 µm. *Conidia* obovoid to narrowly turbinate, tapering toward base, apex rounded to subtruncate, aseptate, finely verruculose, guttulate, pale brown, (25–)27–28(–33) × (7–)8 µm.

Culture characteristics — Colonies flat, spreading, with moderate aerial mycelium and feathery, lobate margin, covering dish after 2 wk at 25 °C. On MEA surface olivaceous grey, reverse honey with olivaceous grey margin. On PDA surface olivaceous grey, reverse iron-grey. On OA surface iron-grey with dirty white margin.

Typus. SOUTH AFRICA, Western Cape Province, Knysna, on leaves of *Podocarpus latifolius* (*Podocarpaceae*), 30 Nov. 2018, *M.J. Wingfield*, HPC 2710 (holotype CBS H-24354, culture ex-type CPC 36783 = CBS 146633; ITS and LSU sequences GenBank MT373370.1 and MT373353.1, MycoBank MB835406).

Notes — *Beltraniella* is characterised by brown, unbranched setae, setiform conidiophores, polyblastic, denticulate conidiogenous cells, and turbinate conidia with a distinct hyaline transverse band (Rajeshkumar et al. 2016). *Beltraniella podocarp* is closely related to several species that tend to have some overlap in conidial length, but have narrower conidia (Rajeshkumar et al. 2016, Crous et al. 2019a).

Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the **ITS** sequence had highest similarity to *Beltraniella portoricensis* (strain BCRC 34590, GenBank GU905993.1; Identities = 479/487 (98 %), 6 gaps (1 %)), *Beltraniella ramosiphora* (strain LCG 10-2, GenBank MG717500.1; Identities = 527/536 (98 %), 4 gaps (0 %)), and *Beltraniella pseudoportoricensis* (strain CBS 145547, GenBank NR_165552.1; Identities = 578/591 (98 %), 5 gaps (0 %)). Closest hits using the **LSU** sequence are *Beltraniella pseudoportoricensis* (strain CBS 145547, GenBank NG_067875.1; Identities = 821/825 (99 %), no gaps), *Beltraniella acaciae* (strain CPC 29498, GenBank NG_066374.1; Identities = 786/790 (99 %), no gaps), and *Beltraniella portoricensis* (strain CBS 856.70, GenBank MH871777.1; Identities = 842/848 (99 %), 1 gap).

Colour illustrations. Rainforest in Knysna, South Africa. Setae and conidiophores on PNA; dichotomously branched seta; conidiophores with conidiogenous cells; conidia with separating cell. Scale bars = 10 µm.

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