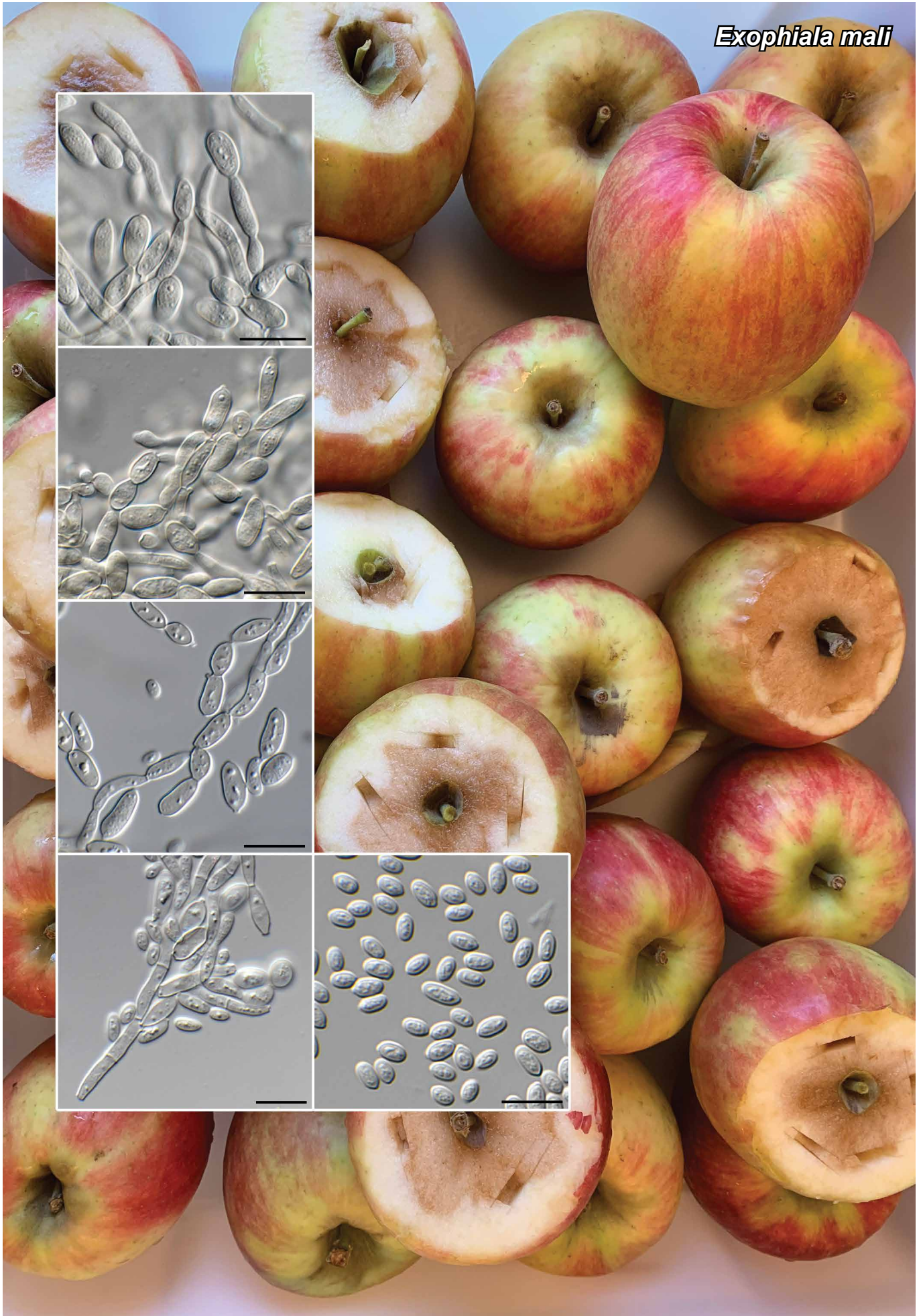


Exophiala mali



Fungal Planet 1119 – 19 December 2020

Exophiala mali Crous, sp. nov.

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

Classification — *Herpotrichiellaceae*, *Chaetothyriales*, *Eurotiomycetes*.

Mycelium consisting of smooth, olivaceous, branched, septate, 2.5–3 µm diam hyphae. *Hyphae* becoming constricted at septa in terminal region, forming chains of disarticulating *conidia*, 0–1-septate, 12–15 × 3–5 µm, subcylindrical to ellipsoid, 0–1-septate, 8–10 × 3–4 µm, olivaceous, smooth, guttulate. *Conidiogenous loci* occurring as hyphal pegs on hyphal cells or on conidia, 1–2 × 1–1.5 µm, not thickened nor darkened, giving rise to smaller, ellipsoid *conidia*, olivaceous, smooth, aseptate, 4–7 × 2.5–3 µm.

Culture characteristics — Colonies erumpent, spreading, with moderate aerial mycelium and smooth, lobate margin, reaching 25 mm diam after 2 wk at 25 °C. On MEA surface folded, olivaceous grey, reverse iron-grey; on PDA surface olivaceous grey, reverse iron-grey; on OA surface olivaceous grey.

Typus. SOUTH AFRICA, Western Cape Province, Ceres, from inner fruit tissue of *Malus* sp. with cold store damage (*Rosaceae*), June 2018, P.W. Crous (holotype CBS H-24408, culture ex-type CPC 38208 = CBS 146791, ITS and LSU sequences GenBank MW175341.1 and MW175381.1, MycoBank MB837831).

Notes — Species of *Exophiala* are commonly isolated from soil, water, and plant debris (Crous et al. 2018b). *Exophiala mali* is a new species of *Exophiala* that was isolated from apples that underwent cold storage damage due to severe low temperatures.

Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the ITS sequence had highest similarity to '*Exophiala lecanii-corni*' (strain CMRP3747, GenBank MT452654.1; Identities = 398/401 (99 %), no gaps), *Exophiala lecanii-corni* (strain CBS 123.33, GenBank NR_145351.1; Identities = 560/579 (97 %), five gaps (0 %)), and *Exophiala pisciphila* (strain G1-2, GenBank KT876529.1; Identities = 592/610 (97 %), five gaps (0 %)). Closest hits using the LSU sequence are *Exophiala lecanii-corni* (strain CBS 123.33, GenBank NG_059200.1; Identities = 881/884 (99 %), no gaps), *Exophiala pisciphila* (strain CBS 464.81, GenBank AF050273.1; Identities = 859/862 (99 %), no gaps), and *Exophiala castellanii* (strain CBS 158.58, GenBank NG_070513.1; Identities = 873/885 (99 %), one gap (0 %)).

Colour illustrations. Apples with cold store damage. Hyphae and conidiogenous cells; conidiogenous cells giving rise to conidia; conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.