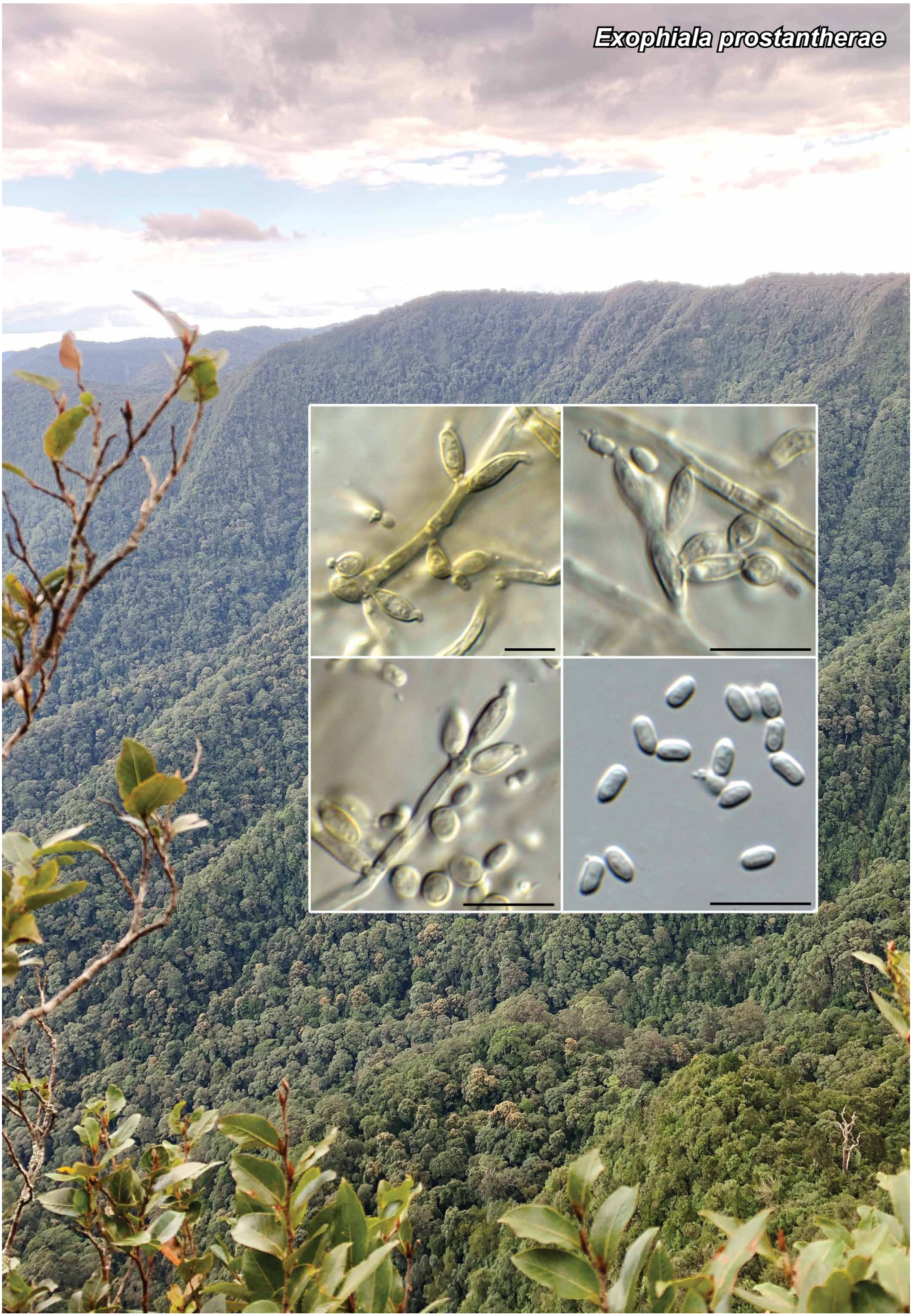
Exophiala prostantherae

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Exophiala prostantherae Crous, *sp. nov.*

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

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

Mycelium consisting of pale brown, smooth, branched, septate, 1.5–2 µm diam hyphae. *Conidiophores* aggregated in clusters, erect, subcylindrical, septate, 5–35 × 2 µm. *Conidiogenous cells* terminal and intercalary, subcylindrical to cymbiform, phialidic, pale brown, smooth, 4–12 × 2.5–3 µm, apex with minute collarette. *Conidia* aseptate, guttulate, pale brown, smooth, subcylindrical, apex obtuse, tapering at base to truncate scar, 0.5 µm diam, (3–)4(–5) × (1.5–)2 µm.

Culture characteristics — Colonies erumpent, spreading, with moderate aerial mycelium and smooth, even margin, reaching 20 mm diam after 2 wk at 25 °C. On MEA and PDA surface olivaceous grey, reverse iron-grey; on OA surface iron-grey.

Typus. Australia, New South Wales, Limpinwood Nature Reserve, on leaves of *Prostanthera* sp. (*Lamiaceae*), 26 May 2015, *B.A. Summerell*, HPC 2952 (holotype CBS H-24411, culture ex-type CPC 38251 = CBS 146794, ITS and LSU sequences GenBank MW175344.1 and MW175384.1, MycoBank MB837836).

Notes — *Exophiala prostantherae* is phylogenetically closely related to *E. aquamarina* (from skin of leafy sea dragon, *Phycodures eques*, Boston, USA; conidia ellipsoidal to cylindrical, 6.7–19.2 × 4–4.8 µm; De Hoog et al. 2011) but distinct in having well-defined conidiophores, and smaller conidia.

Based on a megablast search of NCBIs GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the **ITS** sequence had highest similarity to *Exophiala aquamarina* (strain IMP-BG-H0001, GenBank MH813288.1; Identities = 550/569 (97 %), four gaps (0 %)), *Cadophora fastigiata* (strain DN12, GenBank KY781375.1; Identities = 601/633 (95 %), four gaps (0 %)), and *Exophiala tremulae* (strain CBS 129355, GenBank NR_159874.1; Identities = 600/632 (95 %), four gaps (0 %)). Closest hits using the **LSU** sequence are *Exophiala pisciphila* (strain CBS 100.68, GenBank MH870790.1; Identities = 852/856 (99 %), no gaps), *Exophiala tremulae* (strain UAMH 10998, GenBank JF951155.1; Identities = 852/856 (99 %), no gaps), and *Exophiala equina* (strain CBS 128222, GenBank MH876297.1; Identities = 851/856 (99 %), no gaps).

Colour illustrations. Rainforest at Limpinwood Nature Reserve (photo B. Summerell). Conidiophores, conidiogenous cells and conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.

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