

*Neocladosporium osteospermi*



Fungal Planet 1132 – 19 December 2020

## *Neocladosporium osteospermi* Crous, *sp. nov.*

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

*Classification* — *Cladosporiaceae*, *Cladosporiales*, *Dothideomycetes*.

*Mycelium* of branched, septate, 2.5–3 µm diam hyphae, not constricted at septa, medium brown, verruculose. *Conidiophores* reduced to conidiogenous cells on hyphae, or erect, straight, sometimes slightly flexuous, narrowly cylindrical, non-geniculate, or nodulose, unbranched, 0–2-septate, up to 65 µm long, 2–3 µm wide, medium brown, verruculose. *Conidiogenous cells* integrated, mostly terminal, sometimes intercalary, cylindrical, 15–35 µm long, proliferating sympodially with 1–3 conidiogenous loci, 2–3 µm diam, thickened, darkened and refractive. *Ramoconidia* cylindrical, 15–35 × 4–5 µm, 1–3-septate, concolorous with conidiophores, thick-walled, irregularly rough-walled, smooth to verruculose to warty, apically with up to two hila, 2–3 µm diam, thickened, darkened and refractive. *Conidia* catenate, in branched, chains, ellipsoid, fusoid to subcylindrical, (11–)13–16(–20) × (3–)3.5(–4) µm, 0–1-septate, medium brown, thick-walled, smooth to verruculose to warty, somewhat attenuated towards both ends, hila truncate, 2–3 µm diam, darkened, thickened and refractive.

*Culture characteristics* — Colonies flat, spreading, with moderate aerial mycelium and smooth, even margin, reaching 35 mm diam after 2 wk at 25 °C. On MEA, PDA and OA surface and reverse olivaceous grey.

*Typus.* SOUTH AFRICA, Western Cape Province, Clanwilliam, on leaf spots of *Osteospermum moniliferum* (*Asteraceae*), 2018, *P.W. Crous*, HPC 3035 (holotype CBS H-24429, culture ex-type CPC 38641 = CBS 146813, ITS and LSU sequences GenBank MW175356.1 and MW175396.1, MycoBank MB837847).

*Notes* — *Neocladosporium* presently contains two species, namely *N. leucadendri* and *N. syringae*, characterised by having conidia with a warty, mucoid outer layer (Bezerra et al. 2017, Crous et al. 2020b). *Neocladosporium osteospermi* adds a third species to the genus.

Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the **ITS** sequence had highest similarity to *Neocladosporium syringae* (strain CPC 35750, GenBank NR\_170057.1; Identities = 648/681 (95 %), 13 gaps (1 %)), *Davidiellomyces australiensis* (strain CBS 142165, GenBank NR\_154036.1; Identities = 612/687 (89 %), 22 gaps (3 %)), and *Davidiellomyces juncicola* (strain CPC 38038, GenBank NR\_166347.1; Identities = 618/699 (88 %), 28 gaps (4 %)). Closest hits using the **LSU** sequence are *Neocladosporium syringae* (strain CPC 35750, GenBank MT223912.1; Identities = 774/778 (99 %), one gap (0 %)), *Neocladosporium leucadendri* (strain CBS 131317, GenBank NG\_057949.1; Identities = 833/841 (99 %), no gaps), and *Neocladosporium leucadendri* (as *Toxicocladosporium leucadendri*; strain CPC 29092, GenBank LT799745.1; Identities = 738/746 (99 %), no gaps).

*Colour illustrations.* Flower of *Osteospermum moniliferum*. Conidiophores and conidiogenous cells giving rise to conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.