

Preussia procaviae



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***Preussia procaviae* Crous, sp. nov.**

Etymology. Name refers to *Procavia capensis* (rock rabbit), from who's dung this fungus was isolated.

Classification — *Sporormiaceae*, *Pleosporales*, *Dothideo-mycetes*.

Conidiomata pycnidial, solitary, immersed to erumpent, brown, globose, 60–150 µm diam, with central ostiole, 10 µm diam; wall of 3–6 layers of brown *textura angularis*. *Conidiophores* reduced to conidiogenous cells lining the inner cavity, hyaline, smooth, phialidic, 4–5 × 2.5–3 µm. *Conidia* solitary, aseptate, hyaline, smooth, guttulate, ellipsoid with obtuse ends, 3–4 × 2 µm.

Culture characteristics — Colonies flat, spreading, surface folded, with sparse aerial mycelium and smooth, lobate margin, reaching 50 mm diam after 2 wk at 25 °C. On MEA, PDA and OA surface olivaceous grey, reverse iron-grey.

Typus. NAMIBIA, Gobabeb-Namib Research Institute, Mirabib Rock, on dung of *Procavia capensis* (*Procaviidae*), 19 Nov. 2019, P.W. Crous, HPC 3110 (holotype CBS H-24446, culture ex-type CPC 38861 = CBS 146827, ITS, LSU, *tef1* and *tub2* sequences GenBank MW175362.1, MW175402.1, MW173126.1 and MW173141.1, MycoBank MB837853).

Notes — The sexual morph of *Preussia procaviae* was not observed on the dung, nor did it develop in culture. However, species of *Preussia* are known to form phoma-like asexual morphs in culture. *Preussia procaviae* is phylogenetically distinct from its closest relatives.

Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the **ITS** sequence had highest similarity to *Preussia* sp. (strain CF209171, GenBank KX710223.1; Identities = 510/511 (99 %), one gap (0 %)), *Sporormiella intermedia* (as *Preussia intermedia*; strain OK2L1-26P, GenBank KF871451.1; Identities = 476/494 (96 %), four gaps (0 %)), and *Preussia antarctica* (strain CBS 222.89, GenBank KX710224.1; Identities = 492/514 (96 %), eight gaps (1 %)). Closest hits using the **LSU** sequence are *Preussia minioides* (strain MEXU 26355, GenBank KF557659.1; Identities = 886/888 (99 %), no gaps), *Sporormiella isomera* (strain CBS 166.73, GenBank MH872355.1; Identities = 886/890 (99 %), two gaps (0 %)), and *Sporormiella intermedia* (as *Preussia intermedia*; strain CBS 364.69, GenBank MH878451.1; Identities = 879/889 (99 %), one gap (0 %)). No significant hits were obtained when the **tef1** sequence was used in blastn and megablast searches. Closest hits using the **tub2** sequence had highest similarity to *Preussia* sp. 10 MP-2020 (strain 18EPLE010, GenBank MT881917.1; Identities = 371/388 (96 %), two gaps (0 %)), *Preussia lignicola* (strain 18ALIC002, GenBank MT671880.1; Identities = 349/394 (89 %), 14 gaps (3 %)), and *Sporormiella intermedia* (strain 18THES003, GenBank MT881987.1; Identities = 346/393 (88 %), 12 gaps (3 %)).

Colour illustrations. Mirabib Rock in the Namib Desert, where the sample was collected. Conidiomata on SNA (scale bars = 100 µm); superficial view of conidiomatal wall (scale bar = 50 µm); conidiogenous cells (scale bars = 10 µm); conidia (scale bar = 10 µm).

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