

Ophioceras freycinetiae



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***Ophioceras freycinetiae* Crous, sp. nov.**

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

Classification — *Ophiocerales*, *Magnaporthales*, *Sordariomycetes*.

Mycelium consisting of hyaline, smooth, branched, septate, 1.5–2 µm diam hyphae. *Conidiophores* reduced to conidiogenous cells that are aggregated in clusters, forming a slimy sporodochial mass on the agar surface. *Conidiogenous cells* hyaline, smooth, elongated, ampulliform, straight to curved, phialidic with well-developed apical collarette, 10–20 × 2–3 µm. *Conidia* solitary, hyaline, smooth, aseptate, subcylindrical, falcate, apex subobtuse, base truncate, (8–)10–12(–13) × 1–1.5 µm.

Culture characteristics — Colonies flat, spreading, with sparse to moderate aerial mycelium and smooth, lobate margin, reaching 50 mm diam after 2 wk at 25 °C. On MEA surface dirty white, reverse buff; on PDA surface and reverse olivaceous grey; on OA surface dirty white.

Typus. NEW ZEALAND, Manukau Domain, from leaf spots of *Freycinetia banksii* (*Pandanaceae*), 19 Mar. 2019, C. Inglis (holotype CBS H-24412, culture ex-type CPC 38508 = T19_02806E = CBS 146781, ITS, LSU, *tef1* (first part) and *tub2* sequences GenBank MZ064408.1, MZ064465.1, MZ078219.1 and MZ078256.1, MycoBank MB 839493).

Notes — *Ophioceras* has globose to elongated-globose ascomata, cylindrical, 8-spored asci, and filiform, narrowly fusoid to cylindrical, septate ascospores (Tsui et al. 2001, Crous et al. 2021). *Ophioceras freycinetiae* is the first asexual morph linked to the genus. It is closely related to *O. chiangdaoense* and *O. leptosporum*, which are known only from their sexual morphs, thus precluding a morphological comparison.

Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the ITS sequence had highest similarity to *Pestalotiopsis mangifolia* (voucher INBio:612E, GenBank KU204609.1; Identities = 519/546 (95 %), five gaps (0 %)), *Ophioceras* sp. (strain F2020, GenBank KU747855.1; Identities = 465/490 (95 %), five gaps (1 %)) and *Microcera larvarum* (voucher INBio:658D, GenBank KU204629.1; Identities = 475/504 (94 %), six gaps (1 %)). Closest hits using the LSU sequence are *Ophioceras chiangdaoense* (strain CMU 26633, GenBank NG_066356.1; Identities = 827/843 (98 %), two gaps (0 %)), *Ophioceras leptosporum* (strain CBS 894.70, GenBank NG_057959.1; Identities = 825/846 (98 %), two gaps (0 %)) and *Ophioceras commune* (strain BCC3328, GenBank DQ341503.1; Identities = 785/848 (93 %), six gaps (0 %)). No significant hits were obtained when the *tef1* and *tub2* sequences were used in blastn and megablast searches.

Colour illustrations. *Freycinetia banksii*. Conidiogenous cells giving rise to conidia on SNA; conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.

Pedro W. Crous & Johannes Z. Groenewald, Westerdijk Fungal Biodiversity Institute, P.O. Box 85167, 3508 AD Utrecht, The Netherlands; e-mail: p.crous@wi.knaw.nl & e.groenewald@wi.knaw.nl
Raja Thangavel, Plant Health and Environment Laboratory, Ministry for Primary Industries, P.O. Box 2095, Auckland 1140, New Zealand; e-mail: thangavel.raja@mpi.govt.nz