

*Nothophaeotheca mirabibensis*

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***Nothophaeotheca* Crous, gen. nov.**

*Etymology.* Name refers to its morphological similarity to *Neophaeotheca*.

*Classification* — *Neophaeothecaceae*, *Neophaeothecales*, *Dothideomycetes*.

*Mycelium* consisting of smooth, hyaline to green-brown, septate, branched hyphae that give rise to microsclerotia, green-brown, globose to ellipsoid, 20–120 µm diam, containing endoconidia,

globose, ellipsoid, green-brown, verruculose, muriformly septate, initially in clusters of 2–6, eventually disarticulating into solitary, globose-ellipsoid *conidia*, thick-walled, verruculose to warty, 0–1-septate, ellipsoid-globose, (7–)8–9 × (6–)7–8 µm.

*Type species.* *Nothophaeotheca mirabibensis* Crous  
Mycobank MB 839526.

***Nothophaeotheca mirabibensis* Crous, sp. nov.**

*Etymology.* Name refers to the collection site, namely the Mirabib inselberg in the Namib Desert, Namibia.

*Mycelium* consisting of smooth, hyaline to green-brown, septate, branched hyphae that give rise to microsclerotia, green-brown, globose to ellipsoid, 20–120 µm diam, containing endoconidia, globose, ellipsoid, green-brown, verruculose, muriformly septate, initially in clusters of 2–6, eventually disarticulating into solitary, globose-ellipsoid *conidia*, thick-walled, verruculose to warty, 0–1-septate, ellipsoid-globose, (7–)8–9 × (6–)7–8 µm.

*Culture characteristics* — Colonies erumpent, surface folded, with sparse aerial mycelium and lobate, uneven margin, reaching 6 mm diam after 2 wk at 25 °C. On MEA, PDA and OA surface and reserve iron-grey.

*Typus.* NAMIBIA, Gobabeb Namib Research Institute, Mirabib, on persistent inflorescence remains of *Blepharis obmitrata* (*Acanthaceae*), 19 Nov. 2019, P.W. Crous, HPC 3109 (holotype CBS H-24492, culture ex-type CPC 38944 = CBS 146980, ITS, LSU, *actA*, *tef1* (first part) and *tef1* (second part) sequences GenBank MZ064440.1, MZ064497.1, MZ078152.1, MZ078228.1 and MZ078253.1, MycoBank MB 839527).

*Notes* — *Nothophaeotheca* is related to *Neophaeotheca*, which is known to form a dematiaceous hyphomycetous morph with endoconidia. Two species of *Neophaeotheca* are presently known from twigs and leaves of *Salicornia meyeriana* in South Africa, and the humidifier of an air-conditioning system in Belgium (Abdollahzadeh et al. 2020). Although morphologically similar, *Nothophaeotheca* is phylogenetically distinct from *Neophaeotheca*.

Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the **ITS** sequence had highest similarity to *Neophaeotheca salicorniae* (strain CPC 27406, GenBank NR\_145401.1; Identities = 508/563 (90 %), 26 gaps (4 %)), *Neophaeotheca triangularis* (strain CBS 471.90, GenBank NR\_137142.1; Identities = 417/459 (91 %), 21 gaps (4 %)) and *Phaeothecoidea melaleuca* (strain CPC 17223, GenBank HQ599594.1; Identities = 465/545 (85 %), 22 gaps (4 %)). Closest hits using the **LSU** sequence are *Neophaeotheca triangularis* (strain CBS 471.90, GenBank NG\_057776.1; Identities = 839/856 (98 %), one gap (0 %)), *Neophaeotheca salicorniae* (strain CBS 141299, GenBank NG\_058237.1; Identities = 813/834 (97 %), one gap (0 %)) and *Fumagospora capnodioides* (strain CBS 131.34, GenBank EU019269.1; Identities = 823/860 (96 %), four gaps (0 %)). No significant hits were obtained when the **actA** and **tef1** sequences were used in blastn and megablast searches.

*Colour illustrations.* Inflorescence remains of *Blepharis obmitrata*. Colony on SNA; hyphae giving rise to endoconidia. 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  
Neriman Yilmaz, Department of Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, University of Pretoria, Private Bag X20, Hatfield 0028, Pretoria, South Africa; e-mail: neriman.yilmazvisagie@fabi.up.ac.za  
Don Cowan, Centre for Microbial Ecology and Genomics, Department of Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology, University of Pretoria, Private Bag X20, Hatfield 0028, Pretoria, South Africa; e-mail: don.cowan@up.ac.za  
Gillian Maggs-Kölling, Gobabeb-Namib Research Institute, Walvis Bay, Namibia; e-mail: gillian@gobabeb.org