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***Curvularia tanzanica*** Y.P. Tan, Dhileepan, Ntandu, Kurose & R.G. Shivas, *sp. nov.*

*Etymology.* Name refers to Tanzania, the country from which it was collected.

*Classification* — *Pleosporaceae*, *Pleosporales*, *Dothideomycetes*.

*Hypae* pale brown, smooth or verruculose, branched and septate, up to 3–6 µm wide. *Conidiophores* erect, straight to flexuous, geniculate towards apex, brown, smooth, septate, 50–110 × 3–4 µm, lateral or terminal, unbranched or sparingly branched. *Conidiogenous cells* intercalary and terminal, brown, smooth to minutely verruculose, polytretic with darkened scars. *Conidia* cylindrical to narrowly ellipsoidal, straight, rounded at the apex, 21–32 × 8–12 µm, 3(–4)-distoseptate, brown to dark brown, end cells paler than others, third cell from base sometimes larger and darker than others; *hila* conspicuous, protuberant, thickened, darkened, 2–3 µm wide.

*Culture characteristics* — Colonies on potato dextrose agar approx. 4 cm diam after 7 d at 25 °C, surface with little aerial mycelium, dark brown to black.

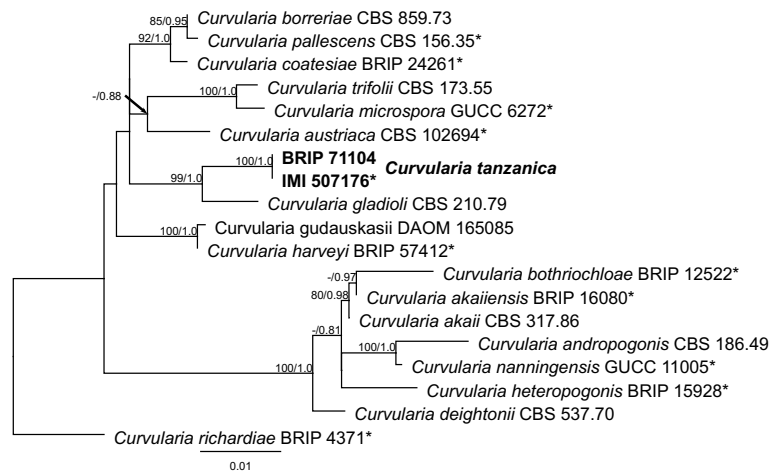
*Typus.* TANZANIA, Korogwe, Msambiasi, S05°07'57" E038°23'10", on inflorescence of *Cyperus aromaticus* (*Cyperaceae*), 22 Dec. 2019, J.E. Ntandu, K. Dhileepan, M.D.E. Shivas & R.G. Shivas (holotype BRIP 71771, culture ex-type IMI 507176, ITS, LSU and *gapdh* sequences GenBank MW396857, MW396841 and MW388669, MycoBank MB 838305).

*Additional material examined.* TANZANIA, Korogwe, Msambiasi, S05°07'57" E038°23'10", from inflorescence of *Cyperus aromaticus* (*Cyperaceae*), 22 Dec. 2019, J.E. Ntandu, K. Dhileepan, M.D.E. Shivas & R.G. Shivas, BRIP 71104, ITS, LSU and *gapdh* sequences GenBank MW396856, MW396840 and MW388668.

*Colour illustrations.* Kunjithapatham Dhileepan in sedgeland, eastern Tanzania. Inflorescence of *Cyperus aromaticus* colonised by *Curvularia tanzanica*; conidiophores; conidia. Scale bars = 1 mm (inflorescence), 10 µm (others).

*Notes* — *Curvularia tanzanica* is only known from collections on *Cyperus aromaticus* (syn: *Kyllinga polyphylla*) (*Cyperaceae*) in Tanzania. *Curvularia tanzanica* was discovered while searching for plant pathogens on *C. aromaticus* in its native range in equatorial Africa. The aim of the surveys was to find plant pathogens that may have potential for the biological control of *C. aromaticus* in northern Queensland, Australia, where the sedge has become an invasive weed in pastures and sugar cane crops. *Curvularia tanzanica* colonised the floral parts of *C. aromaticus* that superficially resembled the darkened crustose inflorescences of *Sporobolus* spp. (*Poaceae*) covered (and sometimes destroyed) by certain species of *Curvularia* spp. (Luttrell 1976, Alcorn 1982, Tan et al. 2018).

The multilocus phylogenetic analysis of the ITS and *gapdh* loci placed *C. tanzanica* sister to *C. gladioli* strain CBS 210.79. Based on a blastn search, *C. tanzanica* differs from *C. gladioli* in ITS (GenBank LT631345; Identities 558/565 (99 %), no gaps) and *gapdh* (GenBank LT715802; Identities 531/540 (98 %), no gaps). Morphologically, *C. tanzanica* has straight conidia, which differentiates it from *C. gladioli* (illustrated in Parmelee (1956) as *C. trifolii* f. sp. *gladioli*) with curved conidia (the third cell from the base is swollen and convex on one side).



Phylogenetic tree of selected *Curvularia* species based on a maximum likelihood analysis of a combined multilocus alignment (ITS and *gapdh*). Analyses were performed on the Geneious v. 11.1.2 platform (Biomatters Ltd.) using RAxML v. 8.2.11 (Stamatakis 2014) and MrBayes v. 3.2.6 (Ronquist & Huelsenbeck 2003), both based on the GTR substitution model with gamma-distribution rate variation. Branch lengths are proportional to distance. RAxML bootstrap (bs) values greater than 70 % and Bayesian posterior probabilities (pp) greater than 0.8 are given at the nodes (bs/pp). *Curvularia richardiae* was used as outgroup. Novel taxon is indicated in bold. Ex-type strains are marked with an asterisk (\*).

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