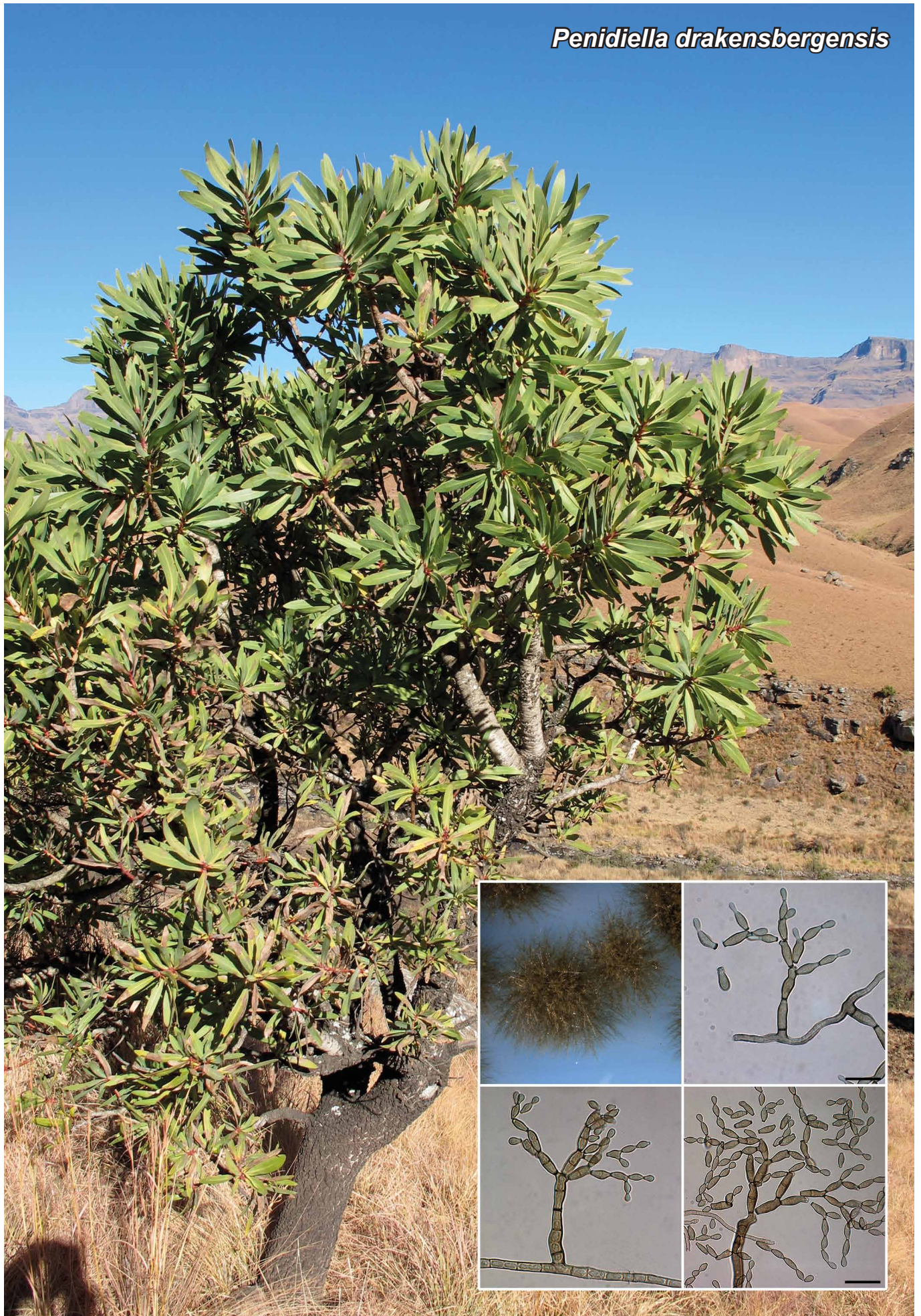


*Penidiella drakensbergensis*



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***Penidiella drakensbergensis* Crous, sp. nov.**

*Etymology.* Named after the Drakensberg Mountains, where this fungus was collected.

Colonies on synthetic nutrient-poor agar. Mycelium consisting of smooth, pale brown, septate, branched, 3–4 µm diam hyphae. *Conidiophores* solitary, erect, subcylindrical, pale brown, smooth, straight or geniculate-sinuuous, unbranched to branched, 3–5-septate, up to 70 µm tall, 4–6 µm wide at base. *Conidiogenous cells* terminal, integrated, subcylindrical, smooth, medium brown, proliferating sympodially, 8–15 × 4–5 µm; scars flattened, unthickened, aggregated, somewhat darkened, not refractive, 2–3 µm diam. *Primary ramoconidia* subcylindrical, brown, smooth, 0–1-septate, 10–15 × 4–5 µm. *Secondary ramoconidia* ellipsoid to obclavate or obovoid, with 1–3 apical hila, 9–13 × 3–4 µm. *Intermediate and terminal conidia* subcylindrical to ellipsoidal, brown, smooth, in branched chains, with up to six conidia, (6–)7–8(–10) × 2.5–3(–3.5) µm, aseptate; hila flattened, truncate, unthickened, somewhat darkened, 0.5–1 µm diam.

*Culture characteristics* — (in the dark, 25 °C after 2 wk): Colonies on malt extract agar, potato-dextrose agar and oat-meal agar spreading, erumpent, with smooth, lobate margin, and sparse aerial mycelium. Surface and reverse olivaceous-grey; reaching 7 mm diam.

*Typus.* SOUTH AFRICA, KwaZulu-Natal, Drakensberg Mountains, Giant's Castle, close to Bushman's Pass, on leaves of *Protea* sp. (*Proteaceae*), 18 July 2011, P.W. Crous, holotype CBS H-21076, cultures ex-type CPC 19778 = CBS 133575, ITS sequence GenBank KC005770, LSU sequence GenBank KC005792, MycoBank MB801770.

*Notes* — A blast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database using the LSU sequence placed this species in *Teratosphaeriaceae* with closest hits being *Penidiella aggregata* (GenBank JF499862; Identities = 849/858 (99 %), Gaps = 0/858 (0 %)), *Readeriellabrunneotingens* (GenBank EU019286; Identities = 839/860 (98 %), Gaps = 2/860 (0 %)) and *Teratosphaeria profusa* (GenBank FJ493220; Identities = 838/860 (97 %), Gaps = 2/860 (0 %)). Closest hits using the ITS sequence had highest similarity to *Penidiella aggregata* (GenBank JF499862; Identities = 502/551 (91 %), Gaps = 18/551 (3 %)), *Catenulostroma hermanusense* (GenBank JF499833; Identities = 496/560 (89 %), Gaps = 24/560 (4 %)) and *Teratosphaeria jonkershoekensis* (GenBank EU707864; Identities = 486/547 (89 %), Gaps = 20/547 (4 %)). Although phylogenetically allied to *P. aggregata* (conidia (5–)6–8 × (2–)2.5(–3) µm), *P. drakensbergensis* has larger intermediate and terminal conidia (Crous & Groenewald 2011).

*Colour illustrations.* *Protea* sp. growing at Giant's Castle, Drakensberg Mountains; colony sporulating on synthetic nutrient-poor agar; conidiophores, conidiogenous cells and conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.