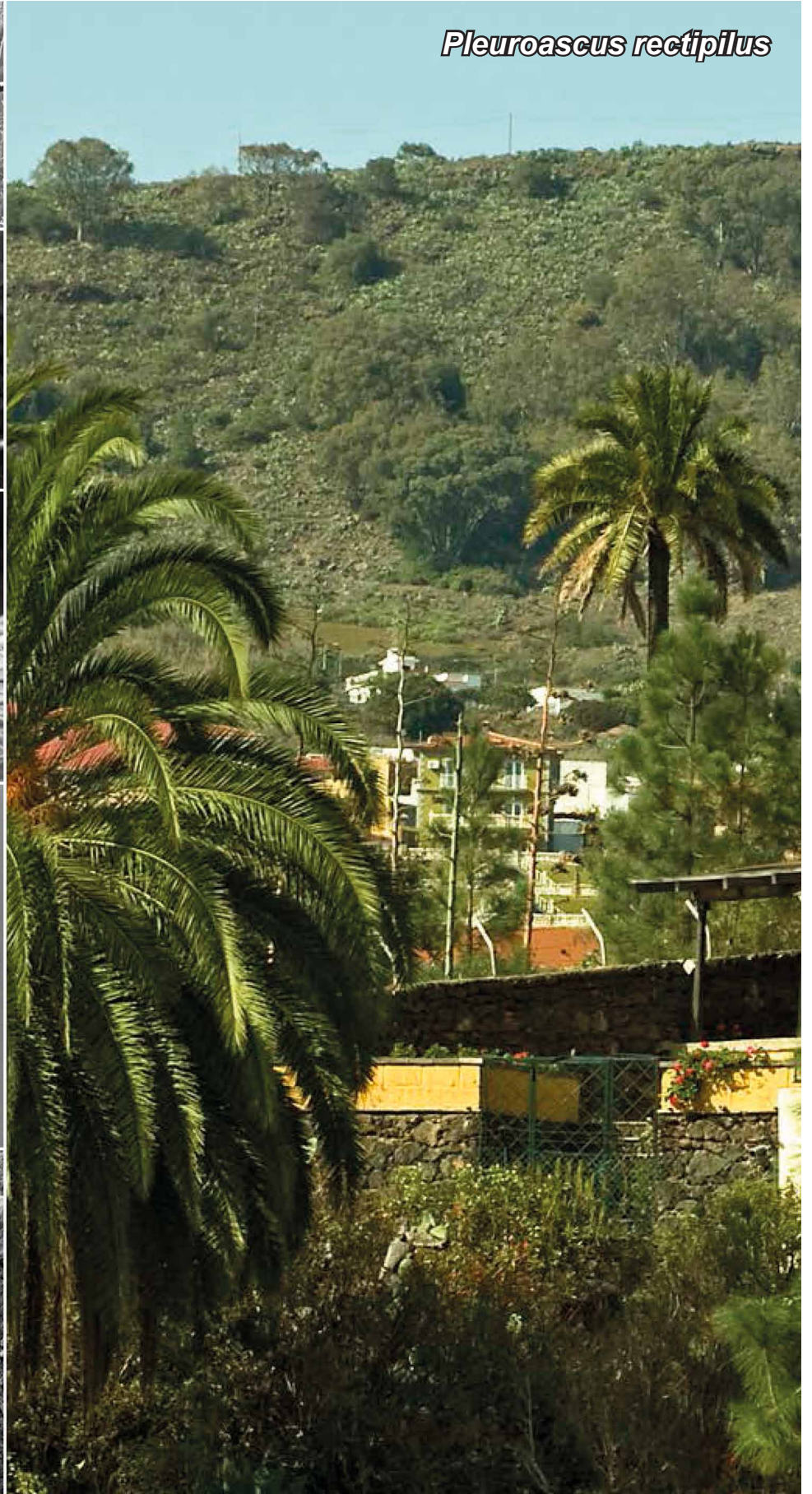
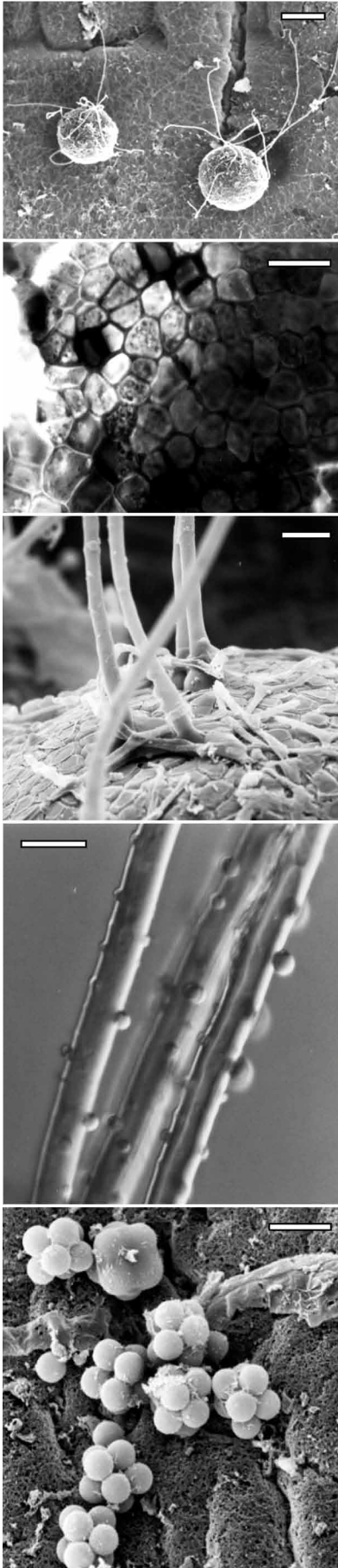


Pleuroascus rectipilus



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Pleuroascus rectipilus Stchigel, Guarro & Cano, *sp. nov.*

Etymology. From the Latin *rectus*- and *-pilus*, referring to the erect setae, in contrast to the extremely coiled hairs of the type species of the genus, *Pleuroascus nicholsonii*.

Mycelium composed of hyaline, branched, anastomosing, septate, smooth-walled hyphae, 1–5 µm wide. Ascromata initials coiled. *Ascromata* superficial, non-ostiolate, spherical, pale brown at first, becoming dark brown to black with the age, purplish black under reflected light, opening when old by irregular breaking between adjacent cells, 150–250 µm diam, setose. *Setae*-like hairs 10–15 per ascroma, erect, sinuose, septate, echinulate to tuberculate, orange-brown, dark purple under reflected light, becoming subhyaline and occasionally contorted at the tip, 40–1000 µm long, 10–15 µm wide at the base, thick-walled. *Peridium* of *textura angularis* in surface view, brown to dark brown, 6–9-layered, 15–20 µm thick; outer-wall brown, 1–2-layered, 5 µm thick, cells prismatic, 3–9 µm diam; inner-wall subhyaline, 5–7-layered, 10–15 µm thick, composed of flattened cells. *Paraphyses* absent. *Asci* 8-spored, prototunicate, catenate, soon evanescent, irregularly disposed at the centrum of the ascroma, 5–7 µm diam. *Ascospores* 1-celled, hyaline to subhyaline, spherical, 2–3 µm diam, thick-walled, grouped in two tetrads inside the ascus and decussately arranged. *Asexual morph* not seen.

Culture characteristics — Colonies on OA attaining 42–45 mm diam in 30 d at 25 °C, flat, granulose due to the production of numerous ascromata, greyish brown, reverse orange-yellow to olive-brown, soluble pigment greyish orange, without exudates. Colonies on PDA attaining 14–17 mm diam in 4 wk, cottony, brownish grey, reverse brown; soluble pigment greyish orange; exudates absent. No growth on PCA at 5 °C, nor at 35 °C. At 15 °C, colonies are similar to those at 25 °C, but grow more slowly.

Typus. SPAIN, Canary Islands Archipelago, Gran Canaria Island, Santa Brígida, from soil, 22 Aug. 1998, *B. Acosta* (holotype CBS H-20169, culture ex-type FMR 8954 = CBS 120411 = MUCL 49873, LSU sequence GenBank HG329726, MycoBank MB512587).

Notes — Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the LSU sequence are *P. nicholsonii* (CBS 345.73, AF096196) and *Connersia rilstonii* (CBS 537.74, AF096189), with a 97 % and 96 % identity, respectively. *Pleuroascus rectipilus* is characterised by its dark-coloured, stiff, sinuous, spinulose to tuberculate, broad setae-like hairs, while these are hyaline to subhyaline, coiled, smooth-walled, and considerably narrower in *P. nicholsonii*. *Connersia rilstonii* is superficially similar to *Pleuroascus* species, but lacks peridial hairs, and the ascospores are irregularly ellipsoidal to moon-shaped.

Colour illustrations. Collection site on Canary Islands; *Pleuroascus rectipilus* (CBS 120411). Ascromata (SEM), peridial wall, basal region of setae (SEM), setae ornamentation, asci and ascospores (SEM). Scale bars: ascromata = 100 µm; peridial wall, basal region of setae and setae ornamentation = 10 µm; asci and ascospores = 5 µm.