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***Melnikomyces* Crous & U. Braun, gen. nov.**

Etymology. Named in honour of Dr Vadim Mel'nik, in recognition of his contribution to the systematics of ascomycetous fungi.

Mycelium consisting of brown, septate, branched, smooth, thick-walled hyphae. *Conidiophores* dimorphic. Type A conidiophores reduced to conidiogenous cells, terminal and intercalary; loci inconspicuous, truncate. *Conidia* globose to subglobose, occurring in short, branched chains, brown, smooth, guttulate, chlamydospore-like in appearance, disarticulating into solitary conidial propagules. Type B conidiophores subcylindrical, brown, smooth, erect, straight or once geniculate, reduced to

conidiogenous cells, or long flexuous, multiseptate. *Conidiogenous cells* subcylindrical to subclavate, mostly terminal but also intercalary, brown, smooth, developing a rachis with numerous denticle-like loci, conidiogenesis holoblastic. *Conidia* solitary, brown, verruculose, fusoid-ellipsoidal, medianly 1-septate, ends subobtuse, young conidia with visible basal marginal frill, secession rhexolytic.

Type species. *Melnikomyces vietnamensis*.
MycoBank MB808939.

***Melnikomyces vietnamensis* Crous & U. Braun, sp. nov.**

Etymology. Named after the country from where it was collected, Vietnam.

Mycelium consisting of brown, septate, branched, smooth, thick-walled, 2–2.5 µm diam hyphae. *Conidiophores* dimorphic. Type A conidiophores reduced to conidiogenous cells, terminal and intercalary; loci inconspicuous, truncate, 1.5–2 µm diam. *Conidia* globose to subglobose, occurring in short, branched chains, brown, smooth, guttulate, chlamydospore-like in appearance, 5–10 µm diam, disarticulating into solitary conidial propagules. Type B conidiophores subcylindrical, brown, smooth, erect, straight or once geniculate, reduced to conidiogenous cells, or long flexuous, multiseptate, 10–60 × 2.5–4 µm. *Conidiogenous cells* 5–15 × 2.5–4 µm, subcylindrical to subclavate, mostly terminal but also intercalary, brown, smooth, developing a rachis with numerous denticle-like loci, 1 µm long. *Conidia* solitary, brown, verruculose, fusoid-ellipsoidal, medianly 1-septate, ends subobtuse, young conidia with visible basal marginal frill, 0.5 µm long, (7–)9–10(–11) × (2.5–)3(–3.5) µm.

Culture characteristics — Colonies spreading, erumpent, with sparse to moderate aerial mycelium; surface folded with lobate, smooth margins. On MEA surface olivaceous-grey, reverse blood colour with diffuse blood pigment spreading into agar; reaching 22 mm diam after 2 wk at 22 °C. On PDA surface olivaceous-grey with wide brown border; reverse umber. On OA surface bay with copious amounts of mucus.

Typus. VIETNAM, Dong Nai Province, Cat Tien National Park, Nam Cat Tien Sector, polydominant monsoon tropical forest, on dry leaves of an unidentified broadleaved tree, in association with *Braunomyces dictyosporus*, 16 Nov. 2011, coll. Yu. Novozhilov, isol. D. Shabunin (holotype CBS H-21715, culture ex-type CPC 23554 = CBS 136209; ITS sequence GenBank KJ869156, LSU sequence GenBank KJ869213, MycoBank MB808940).

Colour illustrations. Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam; conidiophores and two conidial types formed in culture. Scale bars = 10 µm.

Notes — The *Scolecobasidium* complex represents several genera. Seifert et al. (2011) commented on a humicola-like syn-aexual morph linked to some species, which would suggest that our taxon, with its dimorphic conidiophores, could be accommodated here. Unfortunately, *Scolecobasidium terreum* (type of *Scolecobasidium*) clusters distant to our fungus. Samer-pitak et al. (2014) recently reviewed this complex, and introduced the genus *Verruconis* for thermophilic species (brain infections), while *Ochroconis* was seen as mesophilic, linked to infections in cold-blooded animals. Phylogenetically, *M. vietnamensis* is allied to *Scolecobasidium cateniphorum* (*Chaetothyriales, incertae sedis*), *Verruconis verruculosa* and *Scolecobasidiella avellanea* (type of *Scolecobasidiella*).

Two species are presently known in *Scolecobasidiella*, namely *S. avellanea* and *S. tropicalis*. However, the phylogenetic relationship of *Scolecobasidiella* to *Melnikomyces* is still somewhat distant. Morphologically, *Melnikomyces* fits the general characteristics of the genus, except that has a synaexual morph forming globose conidia, which has not been observed in any of the other two species.

ITS. Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the ITS sequence are *Dactylaria purpurella* (GenBank AY265335; Identities = 538/624 (86 %), Gaps = 34/624 (5 %)), *Ochroconis humicola* (GenBank AY265334; Identities = 525/629 (83 %), Gaps = 41/629 (6 %)) and *Scolecobasidium terreum* (GenBank FR832480; Identities = 294/330 (89 %), Gaps = 13/330 (3 %)).

LSU. Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the LSU sequence are *Scolecobasidiella avellanea* (GenBank EF204505; Identities = 796/830 (96 %), Gaps = 1/830 (0 %)), *Verruconis verruculosa* (GenBank KF282668; Identities = 819/869 (94 %), Gaps = 5/869 (0 %)) and *Scolecobasidium cateniphorum* (GenBank EU107309; Identities = 786/834 (94 %), Gaps = 8/834 (0 %)).

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