Plectosphaerella niemeijerarum
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**Plectosphaerella niemeijerarum** L. Lombard, *sp. nov.*

*Etymology.* Named for Flora and Rosalie Niemeijer, who collected this sample. This species was discovered during a Citizen Science project in the Netherlands, ‘Wereldfaam, een schimmel met je eigen naam’, describing novel fungal species isolated from Dutch soils.

*Classification.* *Plectosphaerellaceae, Glomerellales, Sordariomycetes.*

*Conidiophores* solitary, unbranched, hyaline, smooth, thin-walled. *Conidiogenous cells* phialidic, determinate or forming laterally, hyaline, smooth, with a single basal septum, widest at the base, straight to sinuous, gradually tapering to the apex, 10–48 × 2–3 µm, with periclinal wall thickening and cylindrical collarette. *Conidia* aggregate in slimy heads, fusiform to ellipsoid, tapering to rounded apex and base, hyaline, smooth, 0–1-septate, with a minute apiculus at either end, (3–)4–6 × 2–3 µm (av. 5 × 2 µm).

*Culture characteristics.* Colonies on PDA white, mycelium appressed, slimy, with sparse aerial mycelium. Aerial mycelium white, fluffy.


*Notes.* *Plectosphaerella niemeijerarum* is phylogenetically closely related to *P. plurivora* (on asparagus, Italy; conidia 4.5–10.5 × 2–5 µm; Carlucci et al. 2012), but morphologically distinct in having smaller conidia, (3–)4–6 × 2–3 µm (av. 5 × 2 µm).

Based on megablast searches using the ITS sequence of the ex-type culture, the best matches were to *Plectosphaerella* sp. (GenBank KX359601; Identities = 583/584 (99 %), no gaps) and *P. cucumerina* (GenBank KP068972; Identities = 554/555 (99 %), no gaps). Based on megablast searches using the tef1 sequence of the ex-type culture, the best matches were to *P. plurivora* (GenBank KY421323; Identities 252/262 (96 %), 2 gaps (0 %)) and *P. pauciseptata* (GenBank KY421322; Identities 250/262 (95 %), 2 gaps (0 %)). Based on megablast searches using the tub2 sequence of the ex-type culture, the best matches were to *P. plurivora* (GenBank KY421303; Identities 316/325 (97 %), 4 gaps (1 %)) and *P. oligotrophica* (GenBank JX508814; Identities 341/379 (90 %), 9 gaps (2 %)).

*Colour illustrations.* Garden from which the soil sample was collected; conidiophores and conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.

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